



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Thursday, June 7, 2018

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NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT



Memorandum

To: Chair Miller and the Board of Directors
 From: Jason Llewellyn, Director of Protective Services
 Date: June 7, 2018
 Regarding: Rail Safety UBCM Resolution

BACKGROUND:

At the April 5th, 2018 Board Meeting the Board considered a draft UBCM resolution proposed by Director Repen regarding the ability of first responders to identify hazardous rail car contents. This motion, shown below, was subsequently approved for submission to the Union of B.C. Municipalities 2018 Convention at the May 24th, 2018 Board meeting.

Rail Safety Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

WHEREAS hazardous materials are shipped by rail through communities across B.C.;

AND WHEREAS there is a significant risk to first responders and other local government agents in the event of a rail emergency;

AND WHEREAS the current system available to first responders and local government agents for identifying rail car contents may be inadequate during a derailment or rail emergency:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition Transport Canada to enact legislation requiring that full manifests of all goods being carried on trains be made available to fire chiefs and local government agents at all times during the transport of those goods.

DISCUSSION:

Staff recommend that the UBCM resolution be changed to include concerns regarding the limited capacity that exists in the province to respond to a dangerous goods emergency and not focus specifically on railcar content identification.

The volunteer fire departments in the RDBN do not have the equipment, manpower, or expertise to respond to a notable dangerous goods event in a populated area. Increased training alone will not increase local response capability to any notable degree. Also, many populated areas of the RDBN are not serviced by a fire department. Despite these notable limitations the RDBN, and member municipalities, are expected to respond to a dangerous goods incident, with CN Rail being prepared to

respond to a dangerous goods event within 12 to 24 hours of being notified. Most of their response resources are located in Alberta.

In staff's opinion CN Rail needs to play a lead role in developing a rail emergency response strategy that is appropriate for northern British Columbia and other areas of the province where local response capacity, and CN Rail response capacity, is not adequate. The strategy needs to be developed in close consultation with the Province of BC and local governments.

PROPOSED NEW UBCM RESOLUTION

CN Rail Emergency Response Capacity Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

WHEREAS the amount and frequency of dangerous goods being transported by CN Rail through all areas of the Province is increasing, and

WHEREAS the capacity to respond to a dangerous goods incident in many populated areas of the province is not adequate.

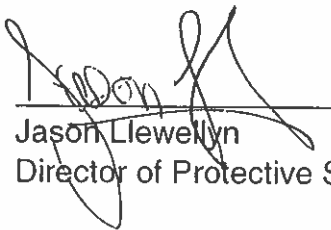
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province of BC to initiate a process with CN Rail to develop a dangerous goods incident emergency response strategy in close consultation with the Province of BC and local governments to ensure adequate response capacity in all areas of the Province.

Recommendation

That the Committee consider recommending that the Board direct staff to replace the Rail Safety resolution approved on May 24th, 2018 for consideration at the Union of B.C. Municipalities 2018 Convention with the resolution proposed in this staff report.

All/Directors/Majority

Written By:



Jason Llewellyn
Director of Protective Services