

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.	31 04-96-0031-T
Your File/V/Réf.	07-96-0119
DATE	11 December 1996
TO/DEST.	Co-ordinator Planning and Environment Committee
FROM/EXP.	Environment and Transportation Commissioner Environment and Transportation Department
SUBJECT/OBJET	RESPONSE TO OUTSTANDING P&E INQUIRY NO. 23 BOILER EXPLOSION AT ROBERT O. PICKARD ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE (ROPEC)

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

BACKGROUND

At the 26 November 1996 Planning and Environment Committee meeting, Councillor Legendre made an inquiry with respect to what steps have been or will be taken with respect to the safety of workers in the event of possible future boiler explosions at the R.O. Pickard Centre (ROPEC).

On 12 June 1996, the firebox of #3 boiler exploded. The boiler suffered extensive damage to both the boiler enclosure and to the fuel train which supplies the digester gas to the burner. Debris blown out from #3 boiler struck the #2 and #4 boilers producing minor damage. No one was in the area at the time and there were no injuries. Operating staff responded immediately by shutting down the boilers and securing the digester gas and electrical power systems.

An operational decision was made to keep the entire East Boiler Plant shut down and make no repairs until a comprehensive investigation and analysis could be conducted to determine the cause of the explosion and thus secure the immediate safety of the workers.

Although a definitive cause of the explosion that occurred at the plant cannot be determined, staff can assure you that the modifications which are presently being made to the boiler controls and safety systems address the potential causes of the original explosion. This work should be completed in February 1997. The provision of barricades to protect workers in the event of an

explosion is not practical nor desirable, since safe and reliable operation of the equipment will be achieved with the modifications being made. In addition, the boilers must be routinely inspected and adjusted while in service.

The flare stack component of the Cogen facility has been installed and is temporarily burning all the digester gas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The east boiler plant boilers are not presently in service and will not be placed back into routine service until all safety concerns raised by staff have been addressed to their satisfaction, and until we have received concurrence from the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs - Fuel Safety Branch that the equipment is safe to operate.

CONSULTATION

Operations staff have been consulted to ensure safety concerns are adequately addressed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Modifications are not complete. Discussions with our insurer are ongoing.

*Approved by
M.J.E. Sheflin, P.Eng.*