



Air Quality: Between the smelter and the pulp mill - or worse? SO₂, cruise ships, and people who live in James Bay

May 2010 Update: Responses from Authorities and Cruise Industry

The JBAQS and MAML Projects:

The James Bay Air Quality Study provided a framework within which the 2009 Mobile Air Monitoring Laboratory (MAML) results could be interpreted and used as the basis for policy for all levels of Government who are responsible for some aspect of air quality in the City of Victoria. The MAML results, along with analysis of Topaz 2006 and 2008 air quality measures, provide a 3-year picture of the effect of cruise tourism on air quality in Victoria.

In the fall of 2009, government bodies and the cruise industry were informed of the results of the MAML study. The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) arranged for a report which presents the data and for a Health Impact Analysis to be done. The final technical report was completed in January, 2010. The status of the Health Impact Study is not publicly known.

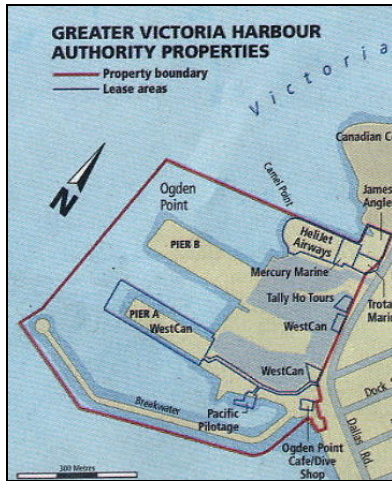
In late 2009, the Capital Region District (CRD) released its 2008 Air Quality study. The impact of cruise ship emissions on air quality was examined. The report states “*SO₂ from cruise ships unequivocally has the greatest effect on ambient concentrations of this contaminant at the Topaz site ... Perhaps of greater concern is the factor of 5 difference between predicted and observed SO₂ concentrations reported in the JBAQS modelling analysis between concentrations at Ogden Point and at Topaz. If this factor difference were to hold true ... the 130 µg/m³ impact level at the Topaz site would translate into an hourly averaged SO₂ concentration at Ogden of about 650 µg/m³ ... may be high enough in the James Bay community to be of concern for human health impacts*”.

The JBNA made presentation to the City of Victoria Environment & Infrastructure Standing Committee on February 24 and to the Board of the GVHA Society on April 16. The consultants who created the MAML report presented the findings to the Board of the GVHA Society in December, 2009.

The responses from the various government bodies and the cruise ship industry, represented by the GVHA Society follow.

“We think cruise ships and their emissions are also worsening and top priority.”
(Ladysmith St resident)

The Cruise Industry:



In Victoria, the Port Authority is Transport Canada. Transport Canada and Environment Canada are responsible for matters relating to the cruise industry while at sea in Canadian waters.

Ogden Point, which berths the cruise ships, is no longer under control of federal authorities. The Greater Victoria Harbour Authority Society, a not-for-profit society registered under the BC Societies Act, serves as landlord, holding title to the foreshore and waterlots at Ogden Point.

The GVHA Society is committed to 'growing cruise tourism' by increasing the number of cruise ships and bringing super-sized ships into Victoria harbour.

GVHA Society representatives at the April Board meeting and at the GVHAS presentation to City Council, on April 22, spoke of plans to go to Ottawa for the purpose of lobbying Transport Canada for funding.

The following excerpt, from an article in the Globe and Mail, speaks to the cruise industry approach to lower sulphur fuel targets:

"British Columbia cruise industry representatives recently travelled to Ottawa to lobby the federal government in connection with a recently approved low-emissions buffer zone around North America, suggesting cruise lines could be given more time to meet some of the targets set out in the International Marine Organization strategy." Globe & Mail, Saturday, May 8, 2010, p.S1/S3 News - British Columbia: Bon Voyage! Vancouver Cruises into Rough Waters

Vancouver Island Health Authority:

The VIHA sponsored team completed the 2009 air quality report in January 2010. Results from the 2009 MAML monitoring study were sent to Dr. Tom Kosatsky, Associate Director of Environmental Health Services, of the BC Centre for Disease Control. VIHA has not released the health assessment as of May 31, 2010.

Capital Regional District - Environmental Sustainability Committee:

"The Capital Regional District (CRD) participated in air quality monitoring from 1996 to 2009 to evaluate the impacts of solid waste burning ... The CRD belonged to the Air Quality Working Group, which consisted of staff from the BC Ministry of Environment, BC Ministry of Health, Environment Canada, Vancouver Island Health Authority, University of Victoria and Royal Roads University... Due to changes in many municipal burning bylaws to ban open burning and with the closure of a commercial demolition and construction debris air curtain burner in 2009, air quality monitoring is no longer a priority of the ERM division. Therefore, **the CRD has withdrawn from the partnership for air quality monitoring.**" (see CRD web-site: February 2010)

The City of Victoria:

The City has not issued a statement on the MAML or CRD findings. Councillor Lucas sits as a City representative on the CRD Environmental Sustainability Committee. The City of Victoria Sustainability Framework, as currently proposed, does not address environmental matters such as local pollutants affecting air quality or noise pollution. The City's web-site and officials continue to promote Victoria's refreshing 'off-shore breezes'.

Government of B.C.- Ministries of the Environment and Healthy Living & Sport

The B.C. Ministry of the Environment (MoE) supported the JBAQS. It also provided the MAML and technical support for 2009 air quality monitoring in James Bay.

However, the Ministry has not continued air quality monitoring beyond the 2009 MAML project nor has it monitored air in the Songhees area where maximum SO₂ and NO₂ 1-hr levels from cruise ship emissions are expected, as well as maximum VOC measures from float plane emissions. The following comments are in response to the 2009 MAML measures and 2008 CRD report:

April 22, 2010, Andrew McLeod of *The Tyee* reporting:

Hon. Barry Penner, Minister, B.C. Ministry of the Environment

“If you don't measure, it's very hard to manage,” said Penner, who along with environment ministry officials was demonstrating a mobile air-quality monitoring lab outside the Parliament buildings. ...

“I believe that data was shared with the CRD and that we're working with them to further identify what the challenges are and what the potential solutions are,” said Penner. *“My understanding is that further testing has been deemed to be appropriate and there will be further work done.”*

... in the legislature Penner introduced four visiting cruise ship industry representatives. They were NorthWest CruiseShip Association president John Hansen, Carnival Corporation vice-president Tom Dow, Royal Caribbean Tours vice-president Andy Nelson and Princess Tours vice-president Bruce Bustamonte ... Penner said they met with him ... The names of none of the four industry representatives appear in the province's new [lobbyists' registry](#).”

April 19, 2010, e-mail: Glen Okrainetz,

Director of Air Quality, Health Protection Branch, Ministry of Healthy Living & Sport

“The Ministry of Environment (MoE) is responsible for operating the provincial air quality monitoring network. I have consulted with my colleagues there... there are no plans to do any further SO₂ monitoring in this area in 2010 as the original goal of having the MAML in James Bay has been achieved, namely to verify the modeling done previously in the area ... MoE does not currently have the capacity to act further this fiscal year. There would be benefits to going back to James Bay and/or the Songhees neighbourhoods following implementation of the Emissions Control Area in August 2012 to determine the effect of ECA sulphur in fuel measures, but that will have to be determined as we get closer to the time.”

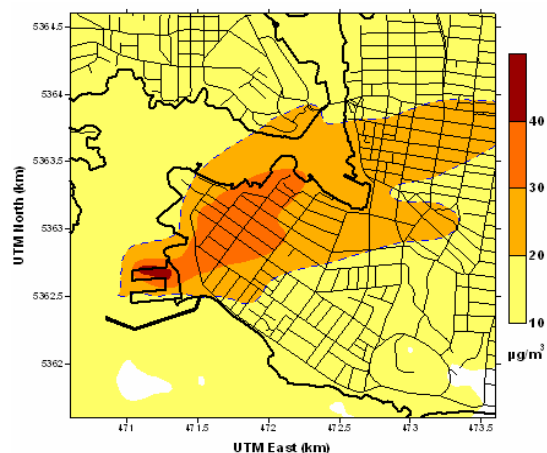
Looking ahead:

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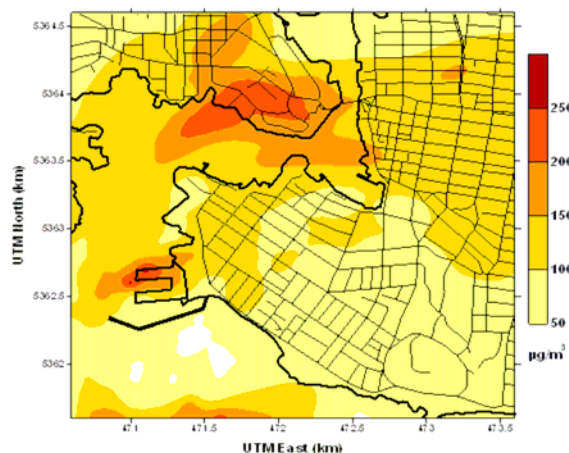
108 days between May 1 and September 30, 2010, will see cruise ship(s) in port. Emissions from these ships will deposit pollution on the residential areas of Victoria – somewhere.

JBAQS Phase II Predicted maximum values

Maximum estimated 24-hour SO₂ (µg/m³)



Maximum estimated 1-hour SO₂ (µg/m³)



“Victoria - a Safe Harbour for Air Pollution”
