

Hydro backs off on 2,4-D plans

By BRENDA DALGLISH

B.C. Hydro has withdrawn its controversial application to use 2,4-D along its transmission lines between Sooke and Jordan River.

It was learned today Hydro has informed the B.C. Pesticide Control Branch it wants to "reassess" its application.

The notification is in a letter to be delivered to the branch later today from

Peter Mosby, vegetation management supervisor for Hydro.

The request comes in the face of increasing protests from the community and a suggestion the utility be charged for including false information in its application.

A Hydro spokesman said vegetation in the area still needs to be controlled but the company wishes to take another look at the situation.

Four residents and the Sooke-Jordan River Chamber of Commerce were appealing Hydro's application. The appeal was to be heard by the Pesticide Control Branch appeal board at the Sooke Royal Canadian Legion Hall June 16 and 17.

Both groups were protesting what they considered false information in Hydro's application.

The residents, who live in the area to be treated,

claim Hydro's information about setback from water intakes was wrong.

Opponents of the spraying suggested Hydro be prosecuted under the Pesticide Control Act which says intentionally making a false statement or misleading the administrator is punishable by a \$2,000 fine or six months imprisonment or both.

The chamber protested the application because of

what officials considered the false and insufficient information, and a number of other reasons.

The chamber wanted alternatives for brush and stump control examined.

Hydro's application called for 200 acres to be treated to control brush and stump growth by backpack sprayers from June 1, 1980, to March 31, 1981. The application said no more than 240 pounds of 2,4-D would be used.

BC Hydro and Pesticides



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