

public hearing would be held to discuss its findings.

On a question by Councillor Russell, W.R. Grace officials stated that a public information campaign would be conducted to keep the neighborhood informed during all stages of the development.

The hearing was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

For the committee

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice K. Wolf".

Alice K. Wolf
Vice Mayor
Chair

port model was based on the assumption that the MBTA tunnel leak is repaired and groundwater was flowing in that direction.

Dr. Green stated that the assessment concludes that the impacts on the environment or public health were negligible or non-existent but detectable.

Vice Mayor Wolf questioned whether it was only necessary to clean up footprints or if it should be full-scale. Dr. Green responded that the impacts were very small.

Vice Mayor Wolf questioned the bioremediation process. It was explained that it is a process involving a naturally occurring bacteria to clean up a contaminated site. There are presently three or four methods that could be employed based upon concentration and soil type. This method has been used in EPA Regions IV and VI (south and southwest states) and has proved successful in Superfund projects, industrial waste cleanups and municipal dump areas.

At this time, the Committee heard from Dr. Haluk Ozkaynak, Harvard University - School of Public Health who stated that his initial opinion of the reports issued was that a reasonable job was performed but questioned the use of new models versus established ones, why experienced data such as meteorological could not have been used and thought the nuisance factor could be better studied.

Nancy Bettinger from DEQE concluded the discussions by stating that the reports are being reviewed by other DEQE officials and that a determination would be made either by the end of July or sometime in August and another

Dr. Greene further explained that naphthalene, can cause anemia if exposed to human life in high levels. But stated that the amount of naphthalene that currently exists would not cause anemia. Possibly during the excavation stage construction workers would be exposed to higher levels but well below OSHA standards. However, as explained in the body of the written report, respirators should be made available to workers under certain circumstances.

Councillor Russell questioned if the risk assessment took into account the exposure of naphthalene by infants and elders residing in the bordering area. Dr. Green responded in the affirmative and stated that the models used were predicated upon samples from the most at risk groups.

Vice Mayor Wolf questioned the certainty of the conclusions drawn that naphthalene was not harmful. Dr. Green explained that this was an old compound found in such products as moth balls, asphalt and deodorants and numerous studies have been conducted to determine at what levels of exposure would cause anemia. Dr. Green further stated that given the exposure areas of the site, there is no reason to believe it is harmful.

Dr. Green, continuing with her presentation, outlined the models employed were based upon the following exposure conditions: No-Build option, construction activities and final. The risk assessment also reports out the results of the models on such activities as excavation, disposal, storage, windblown dust, bioremediation and ground water transport.

Vice Mayor Wolf questioned whether the results of groundwater trans-

At this time the Committee heard from Mr. Wesley E. Stimpson, Vice President of Haley & Aldrich, Inc., who proceeded to review the information requested by D.E.Q.E. in its "Notice of Responsibility" (NOR) dated 1987. Through the use of overhead slides, Mr. Stimpson provided the Committee with the locations and identity of all former storage tanks, waste tanks and disposal areas; *location of five contaminant areas on-site where chloride, petroleum, naphtha and naphthalene were found in the soil; location of utility lines; and direction of groundwater flow throughout the area. *(It should be noted that five contaminant areas are not waste disposal areas).

Mr. Stimpson also provided the Committee with the results of studies completed regarding the possibility of contaminated groundwater into off-site residences (i.e. Seagrave Road) and quarterly sampling of groundwater on-site. Other informational data provided included three alternatives for the removal of on-site contaminants (off-site disposal, on-site low temperature thermal aeration and on-site bioremediation); plan for evaluation classification and disposal of soils excavated during construction; Remedial Action Plan and Hazardous Material Management Plan.

Upon completion of Mr. Stimpson's presentation, the Committee heard from Laura C. Green, Ph.D., co-author of the Health Risk Assessment Report. Dr. Green began her presentation by stating that there presently exists a fair amount of oil and grease as well as naphthalene on the site in its current state. Dr. Green further stated that the levels that exist do not constitute a public health concern.

City of Cambridge

In City Council June 13, 1988

The Environment Committee conducted a public hearing on Tuesday, June 7, 1988 beginning at 7:50 p.m. in the cafeteria of the W.R. Grace Company located at 62 Whittemore Avenue.

The purpose of this public hearing was to present to the Committee the assumptions, models and results of environmental testing done at the W.R. Grace site by Haley and Aldrich, and Meta Systems, Inc.

Vice Mayor Alice K. Wolf, Chair of the above committee, convened the hearing, introduced all members present and stated that copies of the Haley & Aldrich, Inc. report entitled "Environmental Data Report for the W.R. Grace & Co. Property in Cambridge, Massachusetts" and the Meta Systems Inc. report entitled "Health Risk Assessment for the W.R. Grace Property, Cambridge, Massachusetts" were available for public inspection at the North Cambridge Branch Library and at the City Council Office, City Hall.

Vice Mayor Wolf then read into the record a communication from Councillor William H. Walsh stating his inability to attend this hearing but offered the following observations regarding the health risk assessment report:

- 1) In a projected "worst possible scenario" - questioned the assumption used of conditional as opposed to actual plans or circumstances at the site and its effect on the outcome of testing results;
- 2) Need for clarification of the short and long range prognosis for the working away of naphthalene residue; and,
- 3) Real impact of the leak in the MBTA tunnel and what indications exist that it will be fixed?

REPORT

Committee on Environment

Re: presentation of assumptions, models &
results of environmental testing done at the
W.R. Grace site by Haley and Aldrich and Meta
Systems, Inc.

6-13-88

Placed on file.