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July 20, 1995

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

To: Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves & Cambridge City Council

JUL 27 PM 12:41

From: Resident Abutters to River Street Gas Main Line

CAMBRIDGE MA.

Re: Gas Leak on River Street & Rehabilitation of Boston Gas Main Lines

We, the undersigned abutters and residents in River Street area, would like to ask that you review the situation regarding the repair and rehabilitation of a gas main line in our area.

There are two Boston Gas Main Lines on River Street, near the entrance of 220 River Street, that began leaking last September, 1994. These Main Lines, 30 and 36 inches in diameter, were laid in the same 13x14 ft. trench. They deliver gas to Boston and several surrounding communities. The Boston Gas Company began work on these Main Lines in late November, 1994. In March, 1995, a gas leak was reported by a homeowner in the area and Boston gas re-excavated the trench, checked basements in the surrounding homes for gas odors, and began to repair the main lines using the cement lining method. This repair work took quite some time, during which the traffic was re-routed away from going over the trench, until the repair work was completed. During this time construction barrels and signs were placed over the site and it was covered with steel plates, secured by pearls and caution tapes.

On Monday, June 19, 1995, the construction signs were removed and traffic was allowed to cross the site, but the temporary steel plates were not secured. This caused all the area homes to experience the constant nuisance of the loud sounds and physical impact (shaking houses, fixtures, etc,...) as cars and huge trucks raced down River Street. Gas leaks continue and residents are forced to call the Fire department and Department of Public Works to re-inspect the site for gas leaks and to secure the loose steel plates.

We are concerned that the above situation presents a growing threat to the physical safety of our homes, families and neighborhood, and to the continued comfort and enjoyment of our homes. We do not believe that Boston gas has done an adequate job of repairing these Main Lines. They have chosen to try to repair a leaking Main Gas Line rather than to replace it. We, and our homes, have been subjected to the impact of their problem.

Currently the temporary steel plate has been fastened, but this action has not inhibited the loud noise and the physical impact to the homes abutting this site. We are concerned because this leak has been repaired several times and has re-occurred. Of equal concern is the very, heavy volume of the traffic on River Street. In addition the nature of the traffic, which includes the largest commercial trucks entering Cambridge often at rapid speeds, makes the need to review the danger inherent in this site even more compelling. According to the last traffic count, done in 1988 by the Cambridge Traffic Department, the average weekday traffic volume on River Street was 12,774 vehicles for River Street. This figure is very old, does not give a break out of the number of large, eighteen wheelers, and is too conservative an estimate for today's high traffic volume on River Street.

We ask that you hold an emergency hearing on this important matter of public safety. We ask that you place a high priority on this matter and order the following:

1) That the Cambridge Traffic Department be directed to assess the danger that the heavy volume of traffic on River Street has on gas leak, and to conduct a traffic count on River Street, determining the number of vehicles, including an count of the number of large, eighteen wheeler, commercial trucks which impact the two Boston Gas Main lines on River Street;

2) That in order for Department of Public Works and its engineers to determine whether these continuous gas leaks can be halted, that the DPW be directed to do the following:

a) Review the Boston Gas Main Line and determine whether it needs replacement or repair. If repair is appropriate, we ask that DPW determine when Boston Gas has done the necessary work on this site and has permanently repaired the leak, and

d) That DPW review the schedule of work, determine the projected date for completion, the date when the steel plates will be removed from River Street, and the date when the site will be closed and River Street will be re-paved.

We thank you for your attention to this matter of neighborhood safety.

Sincerely,

Citizens of Cambridge Abutting the GAS LEAK @ 220 River Street, Cambridge

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>
<i>Dorothy E Newton</i>	<i>222 River St. Cambridge</i>	
<i>Hussain A. Musa</i>	<i>222 River St.</i>	<i>7/27</i>
<i>Aminah Dubed</i>	<i>222 River St.</i>	
<i>Kathleen Almasi</i>	<i>226 River St.</i>	<i>7/26/95</i>
<i>STUART PARSONS</i>	<i>19 ROCKWELL</i>	<i>7/26/95</i>
<i>A. Ali</i>	<i>222 B</i>	<i>7/26/95</i>

Signature

Address

Date

Signature	Address	Date
Pasa Haynes	9 Mildred Hamilton Pl	7-24-95
Gloria M. Brown	9 Mildred Hamilton Place	7-25-95
Caroline Hunter	23 Rockwell St Camb	7-24-95
David Edey	16 Mildred Hamilton Pl	7-25-95
Joni Meyer	14 Mildred Hamilton Place	7-25-95
B. Campbell	1A Howard St	7-25-95
Marianne Coyne	9 Mildred Hamilton Pl	7-26-95
Madeline M. Hamilton	20 Rockwell St Camb	7-26-95
Andre Truelo	25 Rockwell St Camb.	7/26/95
Andrea Truelo	22 Rockwell St Camb.	7/26
Warren Spear	244 River St #1 Camb.	7/26/95
Judith Langelere	244 River St #2 Camb,	7/26/95
JUNIOR CARTY	231 RIVER ST. CAMB.	7/26/95
Alice Burke	231 RIVER ST CAMB.	7/26/95
Emiliano RIVAS	210 RIVER ST Camb.	7/26/95
Hannia Vargas	208 River St, Camb	7/26/95
Jorge Aguino	204 204 River St., Camb.	7/26/95
Carlos Ortiz	198 River St. Camb	7/26/95
H. Eckel	230 River St Camb.	7/26/95
William	228 River St Camb	7/26/95
Paul Stiller	224 River St Camb	7/26/95

Consent Communication #30

CM-353

Communication was received from
River Street abutters regarding a gas
leak on River Street and and
rehabilitation of Boston Gas Main
Lines.

In City Council July 31, 1995

Referred to City
Mgn.