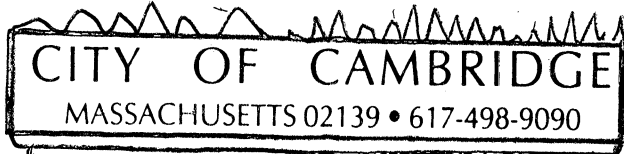
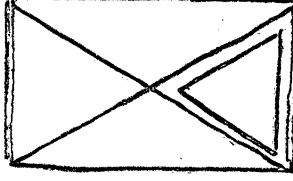




*Resco  
memorial  
in Saugus*



August 23, 1982



Alfred E. Vellucci  
Mayor

The Honorable, the City Council:

Dear Colleagues:

I am in receipt of a disturbing memorandum from our Public Health Coordinator concerning a chemical leak at M.I.T.

The memorandum, which I have enclosed, raises more questions than it answers. In particular, I think the Council deserves answers to the following questions:

- (1) What laboratory generated the hazardous waste which accidentally spilled from the trash compactor. Was it a recombinant DNA lab?
- (2) Why did an unauthorized cleaning take place in a lab that deals in hazardous waste?
- (3) Even if the spillage had not occurred in the compactor, where would the contents of the compactor been taken? Now that we know that the compactor contained hazardous waste, do we know as well that its disposal schedule is in accordance with all relevant regulations concerning the disposal of hazardous waste?
- (4) Did any of the liquid go into the nearby drain? What was the ultimate outlet for that drain?
- (5) What does all of this say about the way in which high level containment recombinant DNA work is conducted at M.I.T. or will be conducted elsewhere in Cambridge, for example at the Whitehead Institute.

I am instructing the City Clerk to schedule a hearing on this issue at the City Council meeting of September 20, 1982 at 7:30 p.m. I am further instructing him to have present the Health Commissioner, the Public Health Coordinator, the M.I.T. Safety Director, the Fire Chief and a representative of Radiac Research Corporation of New York.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Very truly yours,  
*Alfred E. Vellucci*  
Alfred E. Vellucci  
Mayor



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

*Appt + Mayor DeLuca*

*Rec'd / Handled*

*Only reason defnits out is when Reese's accident*

To : Robert W. Healy,  
City Manager

Date : August 9, 1982

From : Kevin Doherty,  
Public Health Coordinator

Reference

Subject: Chemical Leak - M.I.T.

*Rich Rossi*

*WHAT IF IT HADN'T LEAKED? - WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED? - Normal disposal or as hazardous waste.*

Approximately 12:20 A.M., Saturday, August 7, 1982, I received a call from the Hospital operator to call Deputy Fire Chief O'Donnell. I called the Deputy and spoke with him and M.I.T. Safety Director, John Fresina. I was informed that a liquid was leaking from a trash compactor at M.I.T. on Main Street, at the rear of the Kendall Square fire station. The leak was near a drain, the outlet of which was uncertain. The Deputy informed me that M.I.T. had requested permission to flush the liquid into the drain. The liquid was suspected to be phenol which is an antiseptic in solution and a corrosive undiluted. The Deputy wanted authorization from the Health Department before such action was taken. As phenol is classified as a hazardous material I authorized no action until I arrived to make an assessment.

Arriving at the scene with Deputy O'Donnell I met with Mr. Fresina. The situation was as described. Not knowing precisely what the liquid was nor what other chemicals may be in the compactor nor in what volume, I directed that: (A) the leak area be covered with sand as an absorbent and to control further leakage:

*Not first time. There was Biven, etc*

(B) the drain be diked with sand so as to prevent drainage; and  
(C) the compactor not be moved nor added to until it could be opened and its contents examined and disposed of properly. The compactor was secured and access blocked. Mr. Fresina was to phone me later that morning with details on examination and disposal. I phoned the City Solicitor to inform him of what had taken place. I left the scene at 2:40 A.M.

Mr. Fresina phoned me at 9:00 A.M. to state that he had arranged for staff of the laboratory and a licensed hazardous waste disposal contractor would be on hand the following morning, Sunday, August 8, at 8:30 A.M. to carry out the examination of the material. Mr. Fresina also explained that an unscheduled cleaning of a laboratory had taken place the previous afternoon and that some chemicals were disposed of improperly and not according to required procedures and protocol. I visited the scene on three separate occasions during the day and observed no change or activity.

I arrived at the scene at 8:30 A.M. Sunday, August 8, 1982. Present were Mr. Fresina, Mr. Richard Chamberlin, Industrial Hygiene Officer, and supervisors from Radiac Research Corporation of New York, a hazardous waste disposal contractor licensed by the Federal government and Massachusetts.

The compactor was moved to allow access and the ground underneath covered with tarpaulins to prevent leakage and control trash that may fall from the compactor. The supervisors from Radiac proceeded to examine the contents of the compactor piece by piece and disposed of the contaminated material in lined 55 cu. ft. steel containers which were then sealed. The chemicals which

were found in glass or plastic containers come under the general heading of laboratory reagents. Substances found in addition to phenol were:

ammonium hydroxide---cleaner

cyanogen bromide---laboratory reagent

ether---anesthetic

isobutyric acid---natural acid

chloroform---anesthetic

isopropyl alcohol---rubbing alcohol and disinfectant

methanol---solvent for paints, varnishes, etc.

pump oil---lubricant

The operation was completed and site cleaned at 2:30 P.M. Radiac Resources Corp., in addition to being a licensed transporter, is a licensed hazardous waste facility operator and will be responsible for ultimate disposition of the material which numbered forty (40) barrels.

Mr. Fresina, Director of M.I.T.'s Safety Office cooperated fully with this Department in resolving this matter in an expeditious manner.

ATTENTION SHIPPERS!

FREIGHT CHARGES ARE PREPAID ON THIS BILL OF LADING UNLESS MARKED COLLECT.

3

# STRAIGHT BILL OF LADING

ORIGINAL—NOT NEGOTIABLE

MA 0035337  
Shipper No

**RADIAC RESEARCH CORP**  
(Name of Carrier) (SCAC)

Carrier No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 8/8/82

FROM: Shipper  
**RADIAC RESEARCH CORP**  
Effect on Delivery shipments, the letters "COD" must appear before consignee's name & otherwise provided in Item 430, Sec. 1.

Street  
**MASS INST OF TECH  
400 MAIN ST.  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS**

Street  
**261 KENT AVE**

Origin  
**BKLYN NY Zip Code - 11211**

**DIRECT**

Quantity and Unit Type	HM	DESCRIPTION AND CLASSIFICATION (Proper Shipping Name, Class and Identification Number per 172.101, 172.202, 172.203)	UN# or NAB	TOTAL QUANTITY (Weight, Volume Gallons, etc.)	WEIGHT (Subject to Correction)	RATE	CHARGES (For Carrier Use Only)
100	X	WASTE FLAMMABLE LIQUID NOS 1993		100			
75	X	WASTE POISON B LIQUID NOS 2810		75			
3800	X	WASTE POISON B SOLID NOS 2811		3800			
PLACARDS TENDERED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>							

TO: SS

where the rate is dependent on value, shippers should state specifically in writing the agreed or value of the property

and or declared value of the property is hereby stated by the shipper to be not exceeding \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**COD** Amt: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subject to Section 7 of the conditions, if this shipment is to be delivered to the consignee without recourse on the consignor, the consignor shall sign the following statement:

The carrier shall not make delivery of this shipment without payment of freight and all other lawful charges.

(Signature of Consignor) \_\_\_\_\_

C.O.D. FEE: PREPAID  COLLECT  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL CHARGES \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FREIGHT CHARGES

FREIGHT PREPAID (except when box checked)

RECEIVED, subject to the classifications and tariffs in effect on the date of the issue of this Bill of Lading, the property described above in apparent good order, except as noted (contents and condition of contents of packages unknown), marked, consigned, and destined as indicated above which said carrier (the word carrier being understood throughout this contract as meaning any person or corporation in possession of the property under the contract) agrees to carry to its usual place of delivery at said destination, if on its route, otherwise to deliver to another carrier on the route to said destination. It is mutually agreed as to each carrier of all or

any of, said property over all or any portion of said route to destination and as to each party at any time interested in all or any said property, that every service to be performed hereunder shall be subject to all the bill of lading terms and conditions in the governing classification on the date of shipment.

Shipper hereby certifies that he is familiar with all the bill of lading terms and conditions in the governing classification and the said terms and conditions are hereby agreed to by the shipper and accepted for himself and his assigns.

MASS INST OF TECH

John M. Fusano

CARRIER **RADIAC RESEARCH CORP**

PER **Alfredo Morales**

# CHEMICAL WASTE DISPOSAL RECORD

No. **C 14195**

DATE 8/8/8 ✓

COMPANY/INSTITUTION Mass Inst of Technology

BLDG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DEPT. NO. Safety

(CONTAINER CLASSIFICATION)

- 1x55 flammable liq 5-  
 - 1x55 poison B liq 6-  
 - 38x55 poison B solid  
 (Emergency Response - supervisor & Technician)

TYPE	P/U
5 - Gallon	
30 - Gallon	
55 - Gallon	<u>40</u>
Other	

certification (49 C.F.R. 172.204) signed by shipper on bill of lading: "This is to certify that the above named materials are properly classified, described, packaged, marked and labeled and are in proper condition for transportation according to the applicable regulations of the Department of Transportation."

CUSTOMER REP. John M. Fresena

RRC REP. [Signature]

REMARKS: MASS Manifest # 0035339  
Control # 5801-5840

**RADIAC RESEARCH CORP.**

261 KENT AVENUE  
 BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11211  
 TELEPHONE (212) 963-2233

- A - FLAMMABLE
- B - CORROSIVE
- C - POISON
- D - OXIDIZER
- E - REACTIVE
- F - MISC. LAB. CHEM.

LABELS APPLIED  
 49 C.F.R. 172.400

YES  
 NO

PLACARDING APPLIED  
 IF REQUIRED  
 49 C.F.R. 172.500

YES  
 NO

GENERATOR COMPLETES

of "TECHNOLOGY" **TWO MAIN CAMBRIDGE MASS (617) 253-3436 MA D01425594**  
**RADIAL RESEARCH CORP 261 KENT AVE BROOKLYN N.Y. 11211 (212) 963-2233 NY D049178296**  
 CONTINUING TRANSPORTER  
**H.W. RADIAL RESEARCH CORP 261 KENT AVE BROOKLYN N.Y. 11211 (212) 963-2233 NY D049178296**

IF MORE THAN ONE MANIFEST / TOTAL NO. OF THIS FORM DATE SHIPPED MONTH DAY YEAR EXPECTED ARRIVAL MONTH DAY YEAR  
 SHIPPING PAPER IS USED FORMS ARE NO IS DATE

U.S. D.C.T. SHIPPING NAME	D.O.T. HAZARD CLASS	UN. / NA. NC	UNITS	UNIT CODE	CONTAINER		EPA WASTE NO.	DESCRIPTION OR WASTE ANALYSIS IF WASTE IS NOS
					NO.	TYPE		
WASTE FLAMMABLE LIQUID NOS	FLAMMABLE LIQUID	1993	LBS	P	1	DR	D001	PACKAGED LABORATORY REAGENTS PACKAGED CONTAMINATED TRASH
WASTE POISON B LIQUID NOS	POISON B	2810	LBS	P	1	DR	D000	
WASTE POISON B SOLID NOS	POISON B	2811	LBS	P	38	DR	D000	
4								
5								
6								

SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDING ANY CONTAINER EXEMPTION, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION:  
**USE DRY CHEMICAL EXTINGUISHER - PROTECTIVE CLOTHING**  
**ABSORB SPILLS ON INERT MATERIAL - REPACKAGE**

IN THE EVENT OF A SPILL, CONTACT THE NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER, U.S. COAST GUARD 1-800-424-8802

TRANSPORTER COMPLETES

REQUIRED LABELS:  YES  NO

PLACARDS REQUIRED: **DANGEROUS**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT I AM THE PRIMARY TRANSPORTER AND HAVE ACCEPTED THE DESCRIBED SHIPMENT IN PROPER CONDITION FOR TRANSPORT TO THE IDENTIFIED H.W.F.

Signature of Transporter: *Alfredo Morales*

DATE SHIPMENT ACCEPTED: MONTH **08** DAY **08** YEAR **87**

VEHICLE ID: **NY 2A004**

STATE: **NY** COMPANY NO. FOR TRAILER, MARINE OR RAIL: **2A004**

DATE OF DELIVERY: MONTH DAY YEAR

H.W.F. COMPLETES

INDICATE ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MANIFEST AND SHIPMENT AND LIST REJECTED MATERIALS, INDICATE DISPOSITION OF REJECTED SHIPMENT

I CERTIFY THAT THE DESCRIBED WASTE(S) WAS DELIVERED BY THE ABOVE MENTIONED DELIVERING TRANSPORTER AND THAT THE INFORMATION ON THIS MANIFEST IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ MONTH DAY YEAR

HANDLING METHOD

1	4
2	5
3	6

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE DESCRIBED MATERIALS ARE IN THE CONDITION AND QUANTITY DESCRIBED, PACKAGED, MARKED AND LABELED AS APPLICABLE FOR TRANSPORTATION ACCORDING TO THE APPLICABLE REGULATIONS OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

Signature: *John M. Justice*  
 GENERATOR SIGNATURE

8 8 82 617 253 1000



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Dr. Melvin Chalfen, Commissioner of Health & Hospitals

Date August 31, 1982

From Paul E. Healy, City Clerk

Reference

Subject City Council hearing to discuss a chemical leak at M. I. T.

Please be advised that at the request of His Honor, The Mayor, a public hearing has been scheduled for Monday, September 20, 1982 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber. The purpose of said hearing will be to discuss a chemical leak which occurred on Saturday, August 7, 1982 at M. I. T.

Enclosed herewith you will find a copy of the City Council hearing schedule for that date. Your attendance is hereby requested at this time.

Your kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated by the City Council and this office.

PEH/mh

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Melvin Chalfen, Commissioner of Health & Hospitals  
Kevin Doherty, Public Health Coordinator  
Fire Chief Thomas Scott  
M. I. T. Safety Director  
Radiac Research Corporation  
Walter Milne, M. I. T.

*paper set*



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Kevin Doherty, Public Health Coordinator

Date August 31, 1982

From Paul E. Healy, City Clerk

Reference

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Fire Chief Thomas Scott  
M. I. T. Safety Director  
Radiac Research Corporation  
Walter Milne, M. I. T.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Fire Chief Thomas Scott

Date August 31, 1982

From Paul E. Healy, City Clerk

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M. I. T. Safety Director  
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Walter Milne, M. I. T.

# City of Cambridge

## CITY COUNCIL HEARING SCHEDULE

Monday, September 13, 1982	5:00 P. M.	Regular City Council Meeting. (City Council Chamber)
Monday, September 20, 1982	5:00 P. M.	Regular City Council Meeting. (City Council Chamber)
	6:00 P. M.	The City Council has scheduled a public hearing to discuss the Economic Feasibility Study of Public Ownership of Cable Television. (City Council Chamber)
	7:00 P. M.	The City Council has scheduled a public hearing pursuant to the request of Arthur Goldberg, Yellow Cab Company, to discuss the renting and leasing of taxicabs in the City of Cambridge. (City Council Chamber)
	7:30 P. M.	At the request of His Honor, the Mayor, the City Council will conduct a public hearing to discuss a chemical leak which occurred at M. I. T. on August 7, 1982. (The Health Commissioner, Public Health Coordinator, M. I. T. Safety Director, Fire Chief and representatives of Radiac Research Corp., have been invited to attend). (City Council Chamber)
Monday, September 27, 1982	5:00 P. M.	Regular City Council Meeting. (City Council Chamber)



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF  
THE CITY CLERK

August 31, 1982

Walter Milne  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Mass. Avenue  
Building 5 - Room 208  
Cambridge, MA 02139

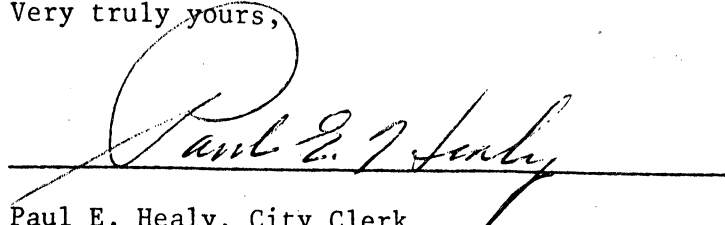
Dear Sir:

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Enclosed herewith you will find a copy of the City Council hearing schedule for that date. Your presence is hereby requested at this time.

Your kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated by the City Council and this office.

Very truly yours,

  
Paul E. Healy, City Clerk

PEH/mh

Enclosure

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Kevin Doherty, Public Health Coordinator  
Fire Chief Thomas Scott  
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Radiac Research Corporation  
Walter Milne, M. I. T.

*papers set*



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF  
THE CITY CLERK

August 31, 1982

John Fresina, Safety Director  
c/o Walter Milne  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Mass. Avenue  
Building 5 - Room 208  
Cambridge, MA 02139

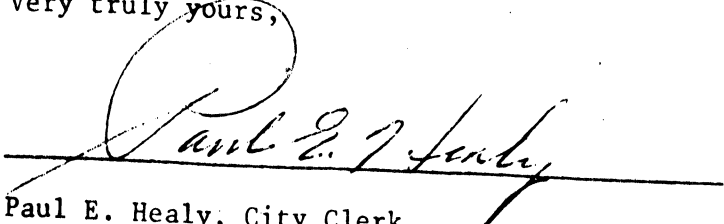
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PEH/mh

Enclosure

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Kevin Doherty, Public Health Coordinator  
Fire Chief Thomas Scott  
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Radiac Research Corporation  
Walter Milne, M. I. T.



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF  
THE CITY CLERK

August 31, 1982

Radiac Research Corp.  
261 Kent Avenue  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11211

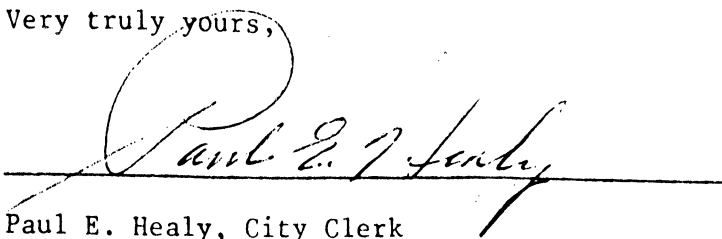
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Paul E. Healy, City Clerk

PEH/mh

Enclosure

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Kevin Doherty, Public Health Coordinator  
Fire Chief Thomas Scott  
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# City of Cambridge

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# EAST CAMBRIDGE PLANNING TEAM

69 Spring Street

East Cambridge, Mass. 02141

June 3, 1982

To the Honorable, the Cambridge City Council:

On Thursday, May 27, 1982, the East Cambridge Stabilization Committee met with Dr. William Kelly of Biogen, and Oliver Farnum of the Cambridge Biohazard Committee to discuss Biogen's plans for expansion in the Kendall Square area. Although the Biohazard Committee held a public hearing on May 13, 1982, to review Biogen's request to establish a large scale pilot program, the Biohazard Committee's efforts to notify the East Cambridge Planning Team were unsuccessful. As a result, we were unaware of the hearing and were unable to present our comments. The May 27 meeting with Dr. Kelly and Mr. Farnum gave us the opportunity to hear about the proposal and to express our concerns regarding the facility.

The Planning Team is extremely concerned by any business or industry, seeking to locate in East Cambridge, which could present a danger to the health and safety of neighborhood residents. We have been assured by Dr. Kelly and Mr. Farnum that Biogen will be required to comply with City ordinances governing DNA research and with other applicable local, state and federal laws regulating laboratory testing and the disposal of waste materials. We have also been assured by Dr. Kelly that the Biogen facility will be used only for research and will not be used for the manufacturing of DNA products. At no time will laboratory experiments or testing include the use of animal or human subjects. The Stabilization Committee and Planning Team feel that these standards are critical to the safety and well-being of the East Cambridge community and must be strictly enforced. We expect that the City Council, working with the appropriate City and State agencies, will insure that these standards are upheld.

We are aware that a committee has been established to monitor Biogen's progress and activities. One seat on this committee is held by a member of the community. However, in selecting that member, it appears that the "community" was defined as Cambridge. We feel very strongly that East Cambridge should have representation on this committee, since the Biogen facility is located adjacent to our neighborhood. This would create a direct and continuous line of communication between Biogen and the neighborhood. Communication of this type would ensure that East Cambridge is kept up to date on all activities effecting area residents.

In addition to these safeguards, we feel that there should be some direct benefits from the facility to the East Cambridge community. Although many of the jobs created by the facility will be in technical and research fields, we feel that East Cambridge residents

June 3, 1982

should be aware of available job opportunities at the facility. We would like Biogen to notify the high school and the Planning Team of job openings so that neighborhood residents can be informed. We would also like these jobs to be advertised in the Cambridge Chronicle prior to advertisement in the Boston Globe or other paper of general circulation.

We would also like to investigate other ways in which Biogen can provide assistance to the East Cambridge community. Mr. Farnum suggested that Biogen establish a scholarship at the high school to assist a graduating senior with his/her college education. We would like to pursue this idea and others to create advancement opportunities for neighborhood residents.

Our conversation with Dr. Kelly and Mr. Farnum has initiated communications between Biogen, the City and the neighborhood. Although neighborhood residents still have concerns and fears, we hope that a continuing dialogue between Biogen and the neighborhood will serve to lessen those concerns. We hope that the City Council will support our efforts to protect East Cambridge and will assist us as we attempt to work cooperatively with Biogen for the betterment of our neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Francis J. Budryk, President  
East Cambridge Planning Team



Mark Shapiro, Chairperson  
East Cambridge Stabilization Committee

FJB/MS:jp

cc: Dr. William Kelly, Biogen  
Oliver Farnum, Biohazard Committee  
Dr. Melvin Chalfin, Commission of Health and Hospitals

Sales  
Tax  
Leasing  
License



Trial  
Lease  
for 1 yr.  
Amendment  
Lease  
Rental

# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • 617-498-9090

Alfred E. Vellucci  
Mayor

August 23, 1982

The Honorable, the City Council:

Dear Colleagues:

I am in receipt of a disturbing memorandum from our Public Health Coordinator concerning a chemical leak at M.I.T.

The memorandum, which I have enclosed, raises more questions than it answers. In particular, I think the Council deserves answers to the following questions:

- (1) What laboratory generated the hazardous waste which accidentally spilled from the trash compactor. Was it a recombinant DNA lab?
- (2) Why did an unauthorized cleaning take place in a lab that deals in hazardous waste?
- (3) Even if the spillage had not occurred in the compactor, where would the contents of the compactor be taken? Now that we know that the compactor contained hazardous waste, do we know as well that its disposal schedule is in accordance with all relevant regulations concerning the disposal of hazardous waste?
- (4) Did any of the liquid go into the nearby drain? What was the ultimate outlet for that drain?
- (5) What does all of this say about the way in which high level containment recombinant DNA work is conducted at M.I.T. or will be conducted elsewhere in Cambridge, for example at the Whitehead Institute.

I am instructing the City Clerk to schedule a hearing on this issue at the City Council meeting of September 20, 1982 at 7:30 p.m. I am further instructing him to have present the Health Commissioner, the Public Health Coordinator, the M.I.T. Safety Director, the Fire Chief and a representative of Radiac Research Corporation of New York.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Alfred E. Vellucci  
Mayor

sem

enclosure



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

*App +  
Mayer  
Dellucini*

Rec'd / Handled

*Intervention of public out  
is when Perez's accident*

To : Robert W. Healy,  
City Manager

Date : August 9, 1982

From : Kevin Doherty,  
Public Health Coordinator

Reference

Subject : Chemical Leak - M.I.T.

Rich Rossi

*WHAT IF IT  
HADN'T  
LEAKED? - What would have happened? - Normal disposal or as  
HAZARDOUS WASTE.*

Approximately 12:20 A.M., Saturday, August 7, 1982, I received a call from the Hospital operator to call Deputy Fire Chief O'Donnell. I called the Deputy and spoke with him and M.I.T. Safety Director, John Fresina. I was informed that a liquid was leaking from a trash compactor at M.I.T. on Main Street, at the rear of the Kendall Square fire station. The leak was near a drain, the outlet of which was uncertain. The Deputy informed me that M.I.T. had requested permission to flush the liquid into the drain. The liquid was suspected to be phenol which is an antiseptic in solution and a corrosive undiluted. The Deputy wanted authorization from the Health Department before such action was taken. As phenol is classified as a hazardous material I authorized no action until I arrived to make an assessment.

Arriving at the scene with Deputy O'Donnell I met with Mr. Fresina. The situation was as described. Not knowing precisely what the liquid was nor what other chemicals may be in the compactor nor in what volume, I directed that: (A) the leak area be covered with sand as an absorbent and to control further leakage:

*Not first time. Here was B1000, etc*

(B) the drain be diked with sand so as to prevent drainage; and  
(C) the compactor not be moved nor added to until it could be opened and its contents examined and disposed of properly. The compactor was secured and access blocked. Mr. Fresina was to phone me later that morning with details on examination and disposal. I phoned the City Solicitor to inform him of what had taken place. I left the scene at 2:40 A.M.

Mr. Fresina phoned me at 9:00 A.M. to state that he had arranged for staff of the laboratory and a licensed hazardous waste disposal contractor would be on hand the following morning, Sunday, August 8, at 8:30 A.M. to carry out the examination of the material. Mr. Fresina also explained that an unscheduled cleaning of a laboratory had taken place the previous afternoon and that some chemicals were disposed of improperly and not according to required procedures and protocol. I visited the scene on three separate occasions during the day and observed no change or activity.

I arrived at the scene at 8:30 A.M. Sunday, August 8, 1982. Present were Mr. Fresina, Mr. Richard Chamberlin, Industrial Hygiene Officer, and supervisors from Radiac Research Corporation of New York, a hazardous waste disposal contractor licensed by the Federal government and Massachusetts.

The compactor was moved to allow access and the ground underneath covered with tarpaulins to prevent leakage and control trash that may fall from the compactor. The supervisors from Radiac proceeded to examine the contents of the compactor piece by piece and disposed of the contaminated material in lined 55 cu. ft. steel containers which were then sealed. The chemicals which

were found in glass or plastic containers come under the general heading of laboratory reagents. Substances found in addition to phenol were:

ammonium hydroxide---cleaner

cyanogen bromide---laboratory reagent

ether---anesthetic

isobutyric acid---natural acid

chloroform---anesthetic

isopropyl alcohol---rubbing alcohol and disinfectant

methanol---solvent for paints, varnishes, etc.

pump oil---lubricant

The operation was completed and site cleaned at 2:30 P.M. Radiac Resources Corp., in addition to being a licensed transporter, is a licensed hazardous waste facility operator and will be responsible for ultimate disposition of the material which numbered forty (40) barrels.

Mr. Fresina, Director of M.I.T.'s Safety Office cooperated fully with this Department in resolving this matter in an expeditious manner.

No. C 14195

# WASTE DISPOSAL RECORD

DATE 8/8/8 ✓

BLDG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DEPT. NO. Safety

Ass Inst of Technology

CONTAINER CLASSIFICATION:

5 - \_\_\_\_\_

6 - \_\_\_\_\_

3 Solid

8 - ✓ Technician

TYPE \_\_\_\_\_ P/U \_\_\_\_\_

5 - Gallon \_\_\_\_\_

30 - Gallon \_\_\_\_\_

55 - Gallon 40

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Signature on bill of lading: "This is to certify that the above named materials are properly packed, sealed and labeled and are in proper condition for transportation according to the regulations of the Department of Transportation."

Fresno RRC REP. (J. Green)

Manifest # 0035337

101-5840

### CORP.

211  
2233

A - FLAMMABLE

D - OXIDIZER

B - CORROSIVE

E - REACTIVE

C - POISON

F - MISC. LAB. CHEM.

YES  
 NO

PLACARDING APPLIED IF REQUIRED 49 C.F.R. 172.500

YES  
 NO

GENERATOR COMPLETES

of "TECHNOLOGY" **TWO MAIN CAMBRIDGE MASS (617) 253-3436** **HA D01425594**  
**RADIAL RESEARCH CORP** **261 KENT AVE BROOKLYN N.Y. 11211** **(212) 963-2233** **NY D049178296**  
 CONTINUING TRANSPORTER

H.W. **RADIAL RESEARCH CORP** **261 KENT AVE BROOKLYN N.Y. 11211** **(212) 963-2233** **NY D049178296**

IF MORE THAN ONE MANIFEST / TOTAL NO. OF THIS FORM / DATE SHIPPED / MONTH / DAY / YEAR / EXPECTED ARRIVAL / MONTH / DAY / YEAR

SHIPPING PAPER IS USED / FORMS ARE / NO. IS / DATE

U.S. D.C.T. SHIPPING NAME	DOT HAZARD CLASS.	UN. / NA. NO.	UNITS	UNIT CODE	CONTAINER		EPA WASTE NO.	DESCRIPTION OR WASTE ANALYSIS IF WASTE IS NOS
					NO.	TYPE		
WASTE FLAMMABLE LIQUID NOS	FLAMMABLE LIQUID	1993	1BS	P	1	DR	D001	PACKAGED LABORATORY REAGENTS PACKAGED CONTAMINATED TRASH
WASTE POISON B LIQUID NOS	POISON B	2810	1BS	P	1	DR	D000	
WASTE POISON B SOLID NOS	POISON B	2811	1BS	P	38	DR	D000	

SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDING ANY CONTAINER EXEMPTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION

**USE DRY CHEMICAL EXTINGUISHER - PROTECTIVE CLOTHING**  
**ABSORB SPILLS ON INERT MATERIAL - REPACKAGE**

IN THE EVENT OF A SPILL, CONTACT THE NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER, U.S. COAST GUARD 1-800-424-8802

REQUIRED LABELS: YES  NO

PLACARDS REQUIRED: **DANGEROUS**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT I AM THE PRIMARY TRANSPORTER AND HAVE ACCEPTED THE DESCRIBED SHIPMENT IN PROPER CONDITION FOR TRANSPORT TO THE IDENTIFIED H.W.F.

Signature of Transporter: *Alfredo Morales*

DATE SHIPMENT ACCEPTED: MONTH **08** DAY **08** YEAR **82**

STATE: **NY** COMPANY NO. FOR TRAILER, MARINE OR RAIL: **2A004**

VEHICLE ID: **NY 2A004**

DATE OF DELIVERY: MONTH  DAY  YEAR

INDICATE ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MANIFEST AND SHIPMENT AND LIST REJECTED MATERIALS, INDICATE DISPOSITION OF REJECTED SHIPMENT

I CERTIFY THAT THE DESCRIBED WASTE(S) WAS DELIVERED BY THE ABOVE MENTIONED DELIVERING TRANSPORTER AND THAT THE INFORMATION ON THIS MANIFEST IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

MONTH  DAY  YEAR

HANDLING METHOD

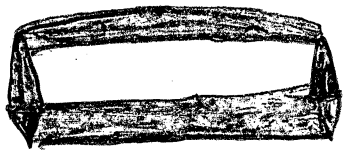
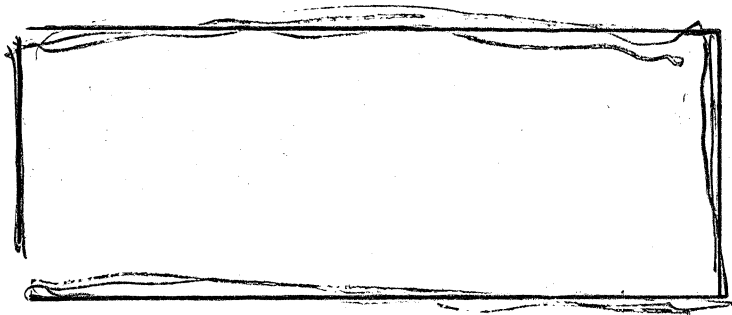
1	4
2	5
3	6

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE NAMED MATERIAL IS PROPERLY DESCRIBED, PACKAGED, MARKED AND LABELLED APPLICABLE TO THE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION ACCORDING TO THE APPLICABLE REGULATIONS OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Signature of Generator: *John M. Jussara*

No. 552 67 253-1000

class.





# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF  
THE CITY CLERK

September 27, 1982

Mr. Howard Johnson  
Chairman of the Board of Overseers  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the request of the Cambridge City Council, I am enclosing an excerpt from the record of the Council meeting of Monday, September 20, 1982 which outlines a hearing held by that body, relative to an alleged chemical leak which occurred at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on August 7, 1982. As you will note by the enclosed order of the Council, they wish to inform you of the existence of this situation in Cambridge.

Your kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

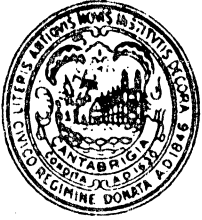
Very truly yours,

Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

PEH/mlh

Enclosures: Excerpt from the Council record of Sept. 20, 1982,  
City Council Order No.'s 8, 9 and 15 of Sept. 20, 1982  
Memorandum of Kevin Doherty, Public Health Coordinator  
dated August 9, 1982

cc: Dept. of Environment & Quality Engineering, M.D.C., Environmental  
Protection Agency, The Honorable John Droney, District Attorney,  
The Honorable Francis X. Bellotti, Attorney General, Mr. Phillip  
Zeochiver, The Overseers and Trustees of M.I.T.



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF  
THE CITY CLERK

September 27, 1982

Metropolitan District Commission  
20 Somerset Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the request of the Cambridge City Council, I am enclosing an excerpt from the record of the Council meeting of Monday, September 20, 1982 which outlines a hearing held by that body, relative to an alleged chemical leak which occurred at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on August 7, 1982. As you will note by the enclosed order of the Council, they wish to inform you of the existence of this situation in Cambridge.

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Very truly yours

Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

PEH/mh

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Protection Agency, The Honorable John Droney, District Attorney,  
The Honorable Francis X. Bellotti, Attorney General, Mr. Phillip  
Zeochiver, The Overseers and Trustees of M.I.T.



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF  
THE CITY CLERK

September 27, 1982

Regional Director  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Room 2200  
J.F.K. Building  
Region I  
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the request of the Cambridge City Council, I am enclosing an excerpt from the record of the Council meeting of Monday, September 20, 1982 which outlines a hearing held by that body, relative to an alleged chemical leak which occurred at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on August 7, 1982. As you will note by the enclosed order of the Council, they wish to inform you of the existence of this situation in Cambridge.

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PEH/mh

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The Honorable Francis X. Bellotti, Attorney General, Mr. Phillip  
Zeochiver, The Overseers and Trustees of M.I.T.



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF  
THE CITY CLERK

September 27, 1982

Anthony D. Cortese, Commissioner  
Dept. of Environment & Quality Engineering  
1 Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the request of the Cambridge City Council, I am enclosing an excerpt from the record of the Council meeting of Monday, September 20, 1982 which outlines a hearing held by that body, relative to an alleged chemical leak which occurred at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on August 7, 1982. As you will note by the enclosed order of the Council, they wish to inform you of the existence of this situation in Cambridge.

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PEH/mh

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cc: Dept. of Environment & Quality Engineering, M.D.C., Environmental  
Protection Agency, The Honorable John Droney, District Attorney,  
The Honorable Francis X. Bellotti, Attorney General, Mr. Phillip  
Zeochiver, The Overseers and Trustees of M.I.T.



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF  
THE CITY CLERK

September 27, 1982

The Honorable Francis X. Bellotti  
Attorney General  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the request of the Cambridge City Council, I am enclosing an excerpt from the record of the Council meeting of Monday, September 20, 1982 which outlines a hearing held by that body, relative to an alleged chemical leak which occurred at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on August 7, 1982. As you will note by the enclosed order of the Council, they wish to inform you of the existence of this situation in Cambridge.

Your kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

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Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

PEH/mh

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dated August 9, 1982

cc: Dept. of Environment & Quality Engineering, M.D.C., Environmental  
Protection Agency, The Honorable John Droney, District Attorney,  
The Honorable Francis X. Bellotti, Attorney General, Mr. Phillip  
Zeochiver, The Overseers and Trustees of M.I.T.



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF  
THE CITY CLERK

September 27, 1982

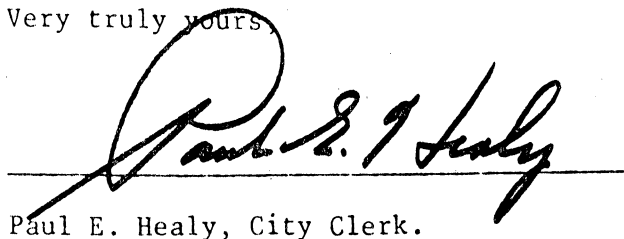
Phillip Zlochiver  
63 Highland Street  
Canton, MA

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the request of the Cambridge City Council, I am enclosing an excerpt from the record of the Council meeting of Monday, September 20, 1982 which outlines a hearing held by that body, relative to an alleged chemical leak which occurred at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on August 7, 1982. As you will note by the enclosed order of the Council, they wish to inform you of the existence of this situation in Cambridge.

Your kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

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Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

PEH/mh

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Zlochiver, The Overseers and Trustees of M.I.T.



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF  
THE CITY CLERK

September 27, 1982

The Honorable John Droney  
District Attorney  
Middlesex County Courthouse  
40 Thorndike Street  
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the request of the Cambridge City Council, I am enclosing an excerpt from the record of the Council meeting of Monday, September 20, 1982 which outlines a hearing held by that body, relative to an alleged chemical leak which occurred at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on August 7, 1982. As you will note by the enclosed order of the Council, they wish to inform you of the existence of this situation in Cambridge.

Your kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

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Zeochiver, The Overseers and Trustees of M.I.T.

# City of Cambridge

## HEARING RELATIVE TO THE CHEMICAL LEAK AT

## MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

At 8:25 p.m. Mayor Vellucci called the hearing to order and requested all interested individuals to come forward. The Mayor further read into the record a memorandum from Public Health Coordinator Kevin Doherty to City Manager Robert Healy, relative to this issue. The memorandum outlined the procedures which were followed by M.I.T., the Health Commissioner and Fire Department upon being notified of the leak.

At this time Vice-Mayor Russell questioned why there were no set or formalized guidelines regarding the disposal of hazardous or toxic waste. Dr. Robert Neer, Chairman of the Biohazards Committee at the Cambridge Hospital responded by stating the Committee had inspected M.I.T. laboratories which were conducting DNA experiments. He further stated that they had determined M.I.T. had been sterilizing their wastes before disposal, as required by city ordinance. Furthermore, he stated that trash bags in these laboratories were double-lined and a different color than regular trash bags, which are also sterilized.

Mayor Vellucci questioned whether or not the removal of the trash bags by a night cleaning man was authorized. Dr. Neer responded by stating that he understood M.I.T. has a special office which deals with the disposal of hazardous waste and that the proper office had in fact been notified to pick up said waste. He further stated that a mix-up occurred and a janitor mistakenly picked up the bag containing the hazardous waste.

At this time Mayor Vellucci questioned how could the general public protect itself in the future from being contaminated? Dr. Neer responded by stating that

# City of Cambridge

with the advance of modern technology and computers, one must assume that at some point the computer or machinery will break down and cause a problem. Accordingly, he said one must assume that when dealing with human beings, there will be human error. He further stated that although they (the Biohazards Committee), feels this was human error, hazardous wastes must be monitored continuously to protect the community.

At this time Councillor Wylie questioned just how much harm could have been done by this leak. Dr. Neer responded by stating that the most dangerous part of the chemical in question was "Cyanogen Bromide", which has the capacity to kill someone.

Councillor Duehay questioned why there were no written policies for the handling of such toxic and hazardous waste, distributed to appropriate employees, including janitorial personnel. Mr. Walter Milne responded by stating that not only were such policies reduced to writing, all janitorial personnel are trained and given oral instruction by the Institute on this very sensitive matter. Unfortunately, he stated, communications in this particular instance were garbled.

Councillor Duehay further questioned whether or not there were written policies on the handling of these wastes on a municipal level. Mr. Doherty responded by stating he did not believe any such policy existed either in Cambridge or surrounding cities and towns. Councillor Duehay further stated that he believed the City of Cincinnati, Ohio had proposed such regulations and Cambridge should take a look at this proposal.

Mayor Vellucci questioned what action will the City administration or City Council take. He further questioned whether or not M.I.T.'s license to conduct DNA experiments should be suspended. Dr. Neer responded by stating that he had only

# City of Cambridge

received Mr. Doherty's memorandum last Saturday (September 18, 1982) and that the full Biohazards Committee had not had a meeting to discuss what should happen.

At this time the City Council also heard from Mr. Richard Chamberlin, Industrial Hygiene Officer and John Fresina, Safety Director of M.I.T. Mr. Fresina stated that there was clearly an unauthorized pick-up by a janitor service. He further stated that since this has happened, M.I.T. has strengthened it's procedures for the removal of hazardous waste.

Mr. Walter Milne, Special Assistant to the Chairman of M.I.T. stated that the laboratory in question was classified P1, the same classification as the laboratory at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. He further stated that the most serious experiments occur in P3 laboratories.

Mayor Vellucci stated that he believed the people of Cambridge deserved a public apology. Vice-Mayor Russell stated that he believed M.I.T. was not in fact taking the disposal of hazardous waste seriously. He further questioned why detailed documentation for the disposal of such waste was not documented. Mr. Fresina responded by stating that such documentation does take place.

Councillor David Sullivan questioned what federal and state agencies were notified of this leak of hazardous waste. Mr. Fresina responded by stating that he, himself was unclear as to whether or not any waste did in fact leak into the city sewer system and consequently, he had not notified any federal or state agency.

At this time Councillor David Sullivan submitted the following order:

# City of Cambridge

Ordered:

That the City Clerk be and hereby is instructed to forward the minutes of this hearing held on Monday, September 20, 1982 relative to the chemical leak which occurred at M.I.T. on August 7, 1982 to the Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.), Department of Environment and Quality Engineering (D.E.Q.E.), the Attorney General, the District Attorney and the Metropolitan District Commission (M.D.C.).

The order as submitted was adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members. It was further agreed to forward a copy of said minutes to the Overseers and Trustees of M.I.T.

The hearing was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

At the conclusion of the hearing the following orders were adopted:

Mayor Vellucci introduced the following order, the question being on adoption to wit:

Ordered:

That M.I.T. acknowledge the grave error which occurred on August 7, 1982 when waste materials were accidentally dumped into a compactor and some of the liquid material was allowed to flow into a nearby drain that eventually found it's way into the city storm drain and finally, into the Charles River, thereby contributing to the pollution of the river; and be it further

Ordered:

That M.I.T. be requested to announce it's plan publicly to keep this from ever happening again.

# City of Cambridge

The order as submitted was adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Councillor Duehay introduced the following order, the question being on adoption, to wit:

Ordered:

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to develop new policies governing the storage, disposal and transportation of toxic chemical and hazardous wastes within the City of Cambridge and recommend same to the City Council.

The order as submitted was adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.



# City of Cambridge

8.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 20, 1982

MAYOR VELLUCCI

ORDERED: That M.I.T. acknowledge the grave error which occurred on August 7, 1982 when waste materials were accidentally dumped into a compactor and some of the liquid material was allowed to flow into a nearby drain that eventually found it's way into the City storm drain and finally, into the Charles River, thereby contributing to the pollution of the river; and be it further

ORDERED: That M.I.T. be requested to announce it's plan publicly to keep this from ever happening again.

In City Council September 20, 1982.  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.  
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul E. Healy".



# City of Cambridge

9.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 20, 1982

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

ORDERED:

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In City Council September 20, 1982.  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.  
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A true copy;

ATTEST:-

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# City of Cambridge

15.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 20, 1982

COUNCILLOR DAVID SULLIVAN

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In City Council September 20, 1982.  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.  
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul E. Healy".



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To : Robert W. Healy,  
City Manager

From : Kevin Doherty, *Kevin D.*  
Public Health Coordinator

Subject: Chemical Leak - M.I.T.

Date: August 9, 1982

Reference

Approximately 12:20 A.M., Saturday, August 7, 1982, I received a call from the Hospital operator to call Deputy Fire Chief O'Donnell. I called the Deputy and spoke with him and M.I.T. Safety Director, John Fresina. I was informed that a liquid was leaking from a trash compactor at M.I.T. on Main Street, at the rear of the Kendall Square fire station. The leak was near a drain, the outlet of which was uncertain. The Deputy informed me that M.I.T. had requested permission to flush the liquid into the drain. The liquid was suspected to be phenol which is an antiseptic in solution and a corrosive undiluted. The Deputy wanted authorization from the Health Department before such action was taken. As phenol is classified as a hazardous material I authorized no action until I arrived to make an assessment.

Arriving at the scene with Deputy O'Donnell I met with Mr. Fresina. The situation was as described. Not knowing precisely what the liquid was nor what other chemicals may be in the compactor nor in what volume, I directed that: (A) the leak area be covered with sand as an absorbent and to control further leakage:

(B) the drain be diked with sand so as to prevent drainage; and  
(C) the compactor not be moved nor added to until it could be opened and its contents examined and disposed of properly. The compactor was secured and access blocked. Mr. Fresina was to phone me later that morning with details on examination and disposal. I phoned the City Solicitor to inform him of what had taken place. I left the scene at 2:40 A.M.

Mr. Fresina phoned me at 9:00 A.M. to state that he had arranged for staff of the laboratory and a licensed hazardous waste disposal contractor would be on hand the following morning, Sunday, August 8, at 8:30 A.M. to carry out the examination of the material. Mr. Fresina also explained that an unscheduled cleaning of a laboratory had taken place the previous afternoon and that some chemicals were disposed of improperly and not according to required procedures and protocol. I visited the scene on three separate occasions during the day and observed no change or activity.

I arrived at the scene at 8:30 A.M. Sunday, August 8, 1982. Present were Mr. Fresina, Mr. Richard Chamberlin, Industrial Hygiene Officer, and supervisors from Radiac Research Corporation of New York, a hazardous waste disposal contractor licensed by the Federal government and Massachusetts.

The compactor was moved to allow access and the ground underneath covered with tarpaulins to prevent leakage and control trash that may fall from the compactor. The supervisors from Radiac proceeded to examine the contents of the compactor piece by piece and disposed of the contaminated material in lined 55 cu. ft. steel containers which were then sealed. The chemicals which

were found in glass or plastic containers come under the general heading of laboratory reagents. Substances found in addition to phenol were:

ammonium hydroxide---cleaner

cyanogen bromide---laboratory reagent

ether---anesthetic

isobutyric acid---natural acid

chloroform---anesthetic

isopropyl alcohol---rubbing alcohol and disinfectant

methanol---solvent for paints, varnishes, etc.

pump oil---lubricant

The operation was completed and site cleaned at 2:30 P.M. Radiac Resources Corp., in addition to being a licensed transporter, is a licensed hazardous waste facility operator and will be responsible for ultimate disposition of the material which numbered forty (40) barrels.

Mr. Fresina, Director of M.I.T.'s Safety Office cooperated fully with this Department in resolving this matter in an expeditious manner.

# City of Cambridge

## HEARING RELATIVE TO THE CHEMICAL LEAK AT

## MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

At 8:25 p.m. Mayor Vellucci called the hearing to order and requested all interested individuals to come forward. The Mayor further read into the record a memorandum from Public Health Coordinator Kevin Doherty to City Manager Robert Healy, relative to this issue. The memorandum outlined the procedures which were followed by M.I.T., the Health Commissioner and Fire Department upon being notified of the leak.

At this time Vice-Mayor Russell questioned why there were no set or formalized guidelines regarding the disposal of hazardous or toxic waste. Dr. Robert Neer, Chairman of the Biohazards Committee at the Cambridge Hospital responded by stating the Committee had inspected M.I.T. laboratories which were conducting DNA experiments. He further stated that they had determined M.I.T. had been sterilizing their wastes before disposal, as required by city ordinance. Furthermore, he stated that trash bags in these laboratories were double-lined and a different color than regular trash bags, which are also sterilized.

Mayor Vellucci questioned whether or not the removal of the trash bags by a night cleaning man was authorized. Dr. Neer responded by stating that he understood M.I.T. has a special office which deals with the disposal of hazardous waste and that the proper office had in fact been notified to pick up said waste. He further stated that a mix-up occurred and a janitor mistakenly picked up the bag containing the hazardous waste.

At this time Mayor Vellucci questioned how could the general public protect itself in the future from being contaminated? Dr. Neer responded by stating that

# City of Cambridge

with the advance of modern technology and computers, one must assume that at some point the computer or machinery will break down and cause a problem. Accordingly, he said one must assume that when dealing with human beings, there will be human error. He further stated that although they (the Biohazards Committee), feels this was human error, hazardous wastes must be monitored continuously to protect the community.

At this time Councillor Wylie questioned just how much harm could have been done by this leak. Dr. Neer responded by stating that the most dangerous part of the chemical in question was "Cyanogen Bromide", which has the capacity to kill someone.

Councillor Duehay questioned why there were no written policies for the handling of such toxic and hazardous waste, distributed to appropriate employees, including janitorial personnel. Mr. Walter Milne responded by stating that not only were such policies reduced to writing, all janitorial personnel are trained and given oral instruction by the Institute on this very sensitive matter. Unfortunately, he stated, communications in this particular instance were garbled.

Councillor Duehay further questioned whether or not there were written policies on the handling of these wastes on a municipal level. Mr. Doherty responded by stating he did not believe any such policy existed either in Cambridge or surrounding cities and towns. Councillor Duehay further stated that he believed the City of Cincinnati, Ohio had proposed such regulations and Cambridge should take a look at this proposal.

Mayor Vellucci questioned what action will the City administration or City Council take. He further questioned whether or not M.I.T.'s license to conduct DNA experiments should be suspended. Dr. Neer responded by stating that he had only

# City of Cambridge

received Mr. Doherty's memorandum last Saturday (September 18, 1982) and that the full Biohazards Committee had not had a meeting to discuss what should happen.

At this time the City Council also heard from Mr. Richard Chamberlin, Industrial Hygiene Officer and John Fresina, Safety Director of M.I.T. Mr. Fresina stated that there was clearly an unauthorized pick-up by a janitor service. He further stated that since this has happened, M.I.T. has strengthened it's procedures for the removal of hazardous waste.

Mr. Walter Milne, Special Assistant to the Chairman of M.I.T. stated that the laboratory in question was classified P1, the same classification as the laboratory at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. He further stated that the most serious experiments occur in P3 laboratories.

Mayor Vellucci stated that he believed the people of Cambridge deserved a public apology. Vice-Mayor Russell stated that he believed M.I.T. was not in fact taking the disposal of hazardous waste seriously. He further questioned why detailed documentation for the disposal of such waste was not documented. Mr. Fresina responded by stating that such documentation does take place.

Councillor David Sullivan questioned what federal and state agencies were notified of this leak of hazardous waste. Mr. Fresina responded by stating that he, himself was unclear as to whether or not any waste did in fact leak into the city sewer system and consequently, he had not notified any federal or state agency.

At this time Councillor David Sullivan submitted the following order:

# City of Cambridge

Ordered:

That the City Clerk be and hereby is instructed to forward the minutes of this hearing held on Monday, September 20, 1982 relative to the chemical leak which occurred at M.I.T. on August 7, 1982 to the Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.), Department of Environment and Quality Engineering (D.E.Q.E.), the Attorney General, the District Attorney and the Metropolitan District Commission (M.D.C.).

The order as submitted was adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

It was further agreed to forward a copy of said minutes to the Overseers and Trustees of M.I.T.

The hearing was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

At the conclusion of the hearing the following orders were adopted:

Mayor Vellucci introduced the following order, the question being on adoption to wit:

Ordered:

That M.I.T. acknowledge the grave error which occurred on August 7, 1982 when waste materials were accidentally dumped into a compactor and some of the liquid material was allowed to flow into a nearby drain that eventually found it's way into the city storm drain and finally, into the Charles River, thereby contributing to the pollution of the river; and be it further

Ordered:

That M.I.T. be requested to announce it's plan publicly to keep this from ever happening again.

# City of Cambridge

The order as submitted was adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Councillor Duehay introduced the following order, the question being on adoption, to wit:

Ordered:

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to develop new policies governing the storage, disposal and transportation of toxic chemical and hazardous wastes within the City of Cambridge and recommend same to the City Council.

The order as submitted was adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.



# City of Cambridge

8.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 20, 1982

MAYOR VELLUCCI

ORDERED: That M.I.T. acknowledge the grave error which occurred on August 7, 1982 when waste materials were accidentally dumped into a compactor and some of the liquid material was allowed to flow into a nearby drain that eventually found it's way into the City storm drain and finally, into the Charles River, thereby contributing to the pollution of the river; and be it further

ORDERED: That M.I.T. be requested to announce it's plan publicly to keep this from ever happening again.

In City Council September 20, 1982.  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.  
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul E. Healy".



# City of Cambridge

9.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 20, 1982

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

ORDERED:

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to develop new policies governing the storage, disposal and transportation of toxic chemical and hazardous wastes within the City of Cambridge and recommend same to the City Council.

In City Council September 20, 1982.  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.  
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A true copy;

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# City of Cambridge

15.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 20, 1982

COUNCILLOR DAVID SULLIVAN

## ORDERED:

That the City Clerk be and hereby is instructed to forward the minutes of this hearing held on Monday, September 20, 1982 relative to the chemical leak which occurred at M.I.T. on August 7, 1982 to the Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.), Department of Environment and Quality Engineering (D.E.Q.E.), the Attorney General, the District Attorney and the Metropolitan District Commission (M.D.C.).

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul E. Healy".



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To : Robert W. Healy,  
City Manager

From : Kevin Doherty, *Kevin D.*  
Public Health Coordinator

Subject : Chemical Leak - M.I.T.

Date : August 9, 1982

Reference

Approximately 12:20 A.M., Saturday, August 7, 1982, I received a call from the Hospital operator to call Deputy Fire Chief O'Donnell. I called the Deputy and spoke with him and M.I.T. Safety Director, John Fresina. I was informed that a liquid was leaking from a trash compactor at M.I.T. on Main Street, at the rear of the Kendall Square fire station. The leak was near a drain, the outlet of which was uncertain. The Deputy informed me that M.I.T. had requested permission to flush the liquid into the drain. The liquid was suspected to be phenol which is an antiseptic in solution and a corrosive undiluted. The Deputy wanted authorization from the Health Department before such action was taken. As phenol is classified as a hazardous material I authorized no action until I arrived to make an assessment.

Arriving at the scene with Deputy O'Donnell I met with Mr. Fresina. The situation was as described. Not knowing precisely what the liquid was nor what other chemicals may be in the compactor nor in what volume, I directed that: (A) the leak area be covered with sand as an absorbent and to control further leakage:

(B) the drain be diked with sand so as to prevent drainage; and  
(C) the compactor not be moved nor added to until it could be opened and its contents examined and disposed of properly. The compactor was secured and access blocked. Mr. Fresina was to phone me later that morning with details on examination and disposal. I phoned the City Solicitor to inform him of what had taken place. I left the scene at 2:40 A.M.

Mr. Fresina phoned me at 9:00 A.M. to state that he had arranged for staff of the laboratory and a licensed hazardous waste disposal contractor would be on hand the following morning, Sunday, August 8, at 8:30 A.M. to carry out the examination of the material. Mr. Fresina also explained that an unscheduled cleaning of a laboratory had taken place the previous afternoon and that some chemicals were disposed of improperly and not according to required procedures and protocol. I visited the scene on three separate occasions during the day and observed no change or activity.

I arrived at the scene at 8:30 A.M. Sunday, August 8, 1982. Present were Mr. Fresina, Mr. Richard Chamberlin, Industrial Hygiene Officer, and supervisors from Radiac Research Corporation of New York, a hazardous waste disposal contractor licensed by the Federal government and Massachusetts.

The compactor was moved to allow access and the ground underneath covered with tarpaulins to prevent leakage and control trash that may fall from the compactor. The supervisors from Radiac proceeded to examine the contents of the compactor piece by piece and disposed of the contaminated material in lined 55 cu. ft. steel containers which were then sealed. The chemicals which

were found in glass or plastic containers come under the general heading of laboratory reagents. Substances found in addition to phenol were:

ammonium hydroxide---cleaner

cyanogen bromide---laboratory reagent

ether---anesthetic

isobutyric acid---natural acid

chloroform---anesthetic

isopropyl alcohol---rubbing alcohol and disinfectant

methanol---solvent for paints, varnishes, etc.

pump oil---lubricant

The operation was completed and site cleaned at 2:30 P.M. Radiac Resources Corp., in addition to being a licensed transporter, is a licensed hazardous waste facility operator and will be responsible for ultimate disposition of the material which numbered forty (40) barrels.

Mr. Fresina, Director of M.I.T.'s Safety Office cooperated fully with this Department in resolving this matter in an expeditious manner.



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9017

OFFICE OF  
THE CITY CLERK

September 27, 1982

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the request of the Cambridge City Council, I am enclosing an excerpt from the record of the Council meeting of Monday, September 20, 1982 which outlines a hearing held by that body, relative to an alleged chemical leak which occurred at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on August 7, 1982. As you will note by the enclosed order of the Council, they wish to inform you of the existence of this situation in Cambridge.

Your kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours

Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

PEH/mh

Enclosures: Excerpt from the Council record of Sept. 20, 1982,  
City Council Order No.'s 8, 9, and 15 of Sept. 20, 1982  
Memorandum of Kevin Doherty, Public Health Coordinator  
dated August 9, 1982

cc: Dept. of Environment & Quality Engineering, M.D.C., Environmental  
Protection Agency, The Honorable John Droney, District Attorney,  
The Honorable Francis X. Bellotti, Attorney General, Mr. Phillip  
Zeochiver, The Overseers and Trustees of M.I.T.

# City of Cambridge

## HEARING RELATIVE TO THE CHEMICAL LEAK AT

## MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

At 8:25 p.m. Mayor Vellucci called the hearing to order and requested all interested individuals to come forward. The Mayor further read into the record a memorandum from Public Health Coordinator Kevin Doherty to City Manager Robert Healy, relative to this issue. The memorandum outlined the procedures which were followed by M.I.T., the Health Commissioner and Fire Department upon being notified of the leak.

At this time Vice-Mayor Russell questioned why there were no set or formalized guidelines regarding the disposal of hazardous or toxic waste. Dr. Robert Neer, Chairman of the Biohazards Committee at the Cambridge Hospital responded by stating the Committee had inspected M.I.T. laboratories which were conducting DNA experiments. He further stated that they had determined M.I.T. had been sterilizing their wastes before disposal, as required by city ordinance. Furthermore, he stated that trash bags in these laboratories were double-lined and a different color than regular trash bags, which are also sterilized.

Mayor Vellucci questioned whether or not the removal of the trash bags by a night cleaning man was authorized. Dr. Neer responded by stating that he understood M.I.T. has a special office which deals with the disposal of hazardous waste and that the proper office had in fact been notified to pick up said waste. He further stated that a mix-up occurred and a janitor mistakenly picked up the bag containing the hazardous waste.

At this time Mayor Vellucci questioned how could the general public protect itself in the future from being contaminated? Dr. Neer responded by stating that

# City of Cambridge

with the advance of modern technology and computers, one must assume that at some point the computer or machinery will break down and cause a problem. Accordingly, he said one must assume that when dealing with human beings, there will be human error. He further stated that although they (the Biohazards Committee), feels this was human error, hazardous wastes must be monitored continuously to protect the community.

At this time Councillor Wylie questioned just how much harm could have been done by this leak. Dr. Neer responded by stating that the most dangerous part of the chemical in question was "Cyanogen Bromide", which has the capacity to kill someone.

Councillor Duehay questioned why there were no written policies for the handling of such toxic and hazardous waste, distributed to appropriate employees, including janitorial personnel. Mr. Walter Milne responded by stating that not only were such policies reduced to writing, all janitorial personnel are trained and given oral instruction by the Institute on this very sensitive matter. Unfortunately, he stated, communications in this particular instance were garbled.

Councillor Duehay further questioned whether or not there were written policies on the handling of these wastes on a municipal level. Mr. Doherty responded by stating he did not believe any such policy existed either in Cambridge or surrounding cities and towns. Councillor Duehay further stated that he believed the City of Cincinnati, Ohio had proposed such regulations and Cambridge should take a look at this proposal.

Mayor Vellucci questioned what action will the City administration or City Council take. He further questioned whether or not M.I.T.'s license to conduct DNA experiments should be suspended. Dr. Neer responded by stating that he had only

# City of Cambridge

received Mr. Doherty's memorandum last Saturday (September 18, 1982) and that the full Biohazards Committee had not had a meeting to discuss what should happen.

At this time the City Council also heard from Mr. Richard Chamberlin, Industrial Hygiene Officer and John Fresina, Safety Director of M.I.T. Mr. Fresina stated that there was clearly an unauthorized pick-up by a janitor service. He further stated that since this has happened, M.I.T. has strengthened it's procedures for the removal of hazardous waste.

Mr. Walter Milne, Special Assistant to the Chairman of M.I.T. stated that the laboratory in question was classified P1, the same classification as the laboratory at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. He further stated that the most serious experiments occur in P3 laboratories.

Mayor Vellucci stated that he believed the people of Cambridge deserved a public apology. Vice-Mayor Russell stated that he believed M.I.T. was not in fact taking the disposal of hazardous waste seriously. He further questioned why detailed documentation for the disposal of such waste was not documented. Mr. Fresina responded by stating that such documentation does take place.

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# City of Cambridge

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The order as submitted was adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

It was further agreed to forward a copy of said minutes to the Overseers and Trustees of M.I.T.

The hearing was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

At the conclusion of the hearing the following orders were adopted:

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Ordered:

That M.I.T. be requested to announce it's plan publicly to keep this from ever happening again.

# City of Cambridge

The order as submitted was adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Councillor Duehay introduced the following order, the question being on adoption, to wit:

Ordered:

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to develop new policies governing the storage, disposal and transportation of toxic chemical and hazardous wastes within the City of Cambridge and recommend same to the City Council.

The order as submitted was adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.



# City of Cambridge

8.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 20, 1982

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# City of Cambridge

9.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 20, 1982

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# City of Cambridge

15.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 20, 1982

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To : Robert W. Healy,  
City Manager

From : Kevin Doherty, *Kevin D.*  
Public Health Coordinator

Subject: Chemical Leak - M.I.T.

Date: August 9, 1982

Reference

Approximately 12:20 A.M., Saturday, August 7, 1982, I received a call from the Hospital operator to call Deputy Fire Chief O'Donnell. I called the Deputy and spoke with him and M.I.T. Safety Director, John Fresina. I was informed that a liquid was leaking from a trash compactor at M.I.T. on Main Street, at the rear of the Kendall Square fire station. The leak was near a drain, the outlet of which was uncertain. The Deputy informed me that M.I.T. had requested permission to flush the liquid into the drain. The liquid was suspected to be phenol which is an antiseptic in solution and a corrosive undiluted. The Deputy wanted authorization from the Health Department before such action was taken. As phenol is classified as a hazardous material I authorized no action until I arrived to make an assessment.

Arriving at the scene with Deputy O'Donnell I met with Mr. Fresina. The situation was as described. Not knowing precisely what the liquid was nor what other chemicals may be in the compactor nor in what volume, I directed that: (A) the leak area be covered with sand as an absorbent and to control further leakage:

(B) the drain be diked with sand so as to prevent drainage; and  
(C) the compactor not be moved nor added to until it could be opened and its contents examined and disposed of properly. The compactor was secured and access blocked. Mr. Fresina was to phone me later that morning with details on examination and disposal. I phoned the City Solicitor to inform him of what had taken place. I left the scene at 2:40 A.M.

Mr. Fresina phoned me at 9:00 A.M. to state that he had arranged for staff of the laboratory and a licensed hazardous waste disposal contractor would be on hand the following morning, Sunday, August 8, at 8:30 A.M. to carry out the examination of the material. Mr. Fresina also explained that an unscheduled cleaning of a laboratory had taken place the previous afternoon and that some chemicals were disposed of improperly and not according to required procedures and protocol. I visited the scene on three separate occasions during the day and observed no change or activity.

I arrived at the scene at 8:30 A.M. Sunday, August 8, 1982. Present were Mr. Fresina, Mr. Richard Chamberlin, Industrial Hygiene Officer, and supervisors from Radiac Research Corporation of New York, a hazardous waste disposal contractor licensed by the Federal government and Massachusetts.

The compactor was moved to allow access and the ground underneath covered with tarpaulins to prevent leakage and control trash that may fall from the compactor. The supervisors from Radiac proceeded to examine the contents of the compactor piece by piece and disposed of the contaminated material in lined 55 cu. ft. steel containers which were then sealed. The chemicals which

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The operation was completed and site cleaned at 2:30 P.M. Radiac Resources Corp., in addition to being a licensed transporter, is a licensed hazardous waste facility operator and will be responsible for ultimate disposition of the material which numbered forty (40) barrels.

Mr. Fresina, Director of M.I.T.'s Safety Office cooperated fully with this Department in resolving this matter in an expeditious manner.

5-566