

(on survey last
page)

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Dr. Chalfen responded by stating he formed a small sub-committee of the task force to conduct just a study and it is currently reviewing the data collected from the survey.

At this time Councillor Wolf opened the meeting up to the audience and the committee heard from Jed Lowry, Edward Cyr and Kate Mattes all of whom voiced concern regarding too little time to respond to the draft E.I.R. once its completed and the fact that a meeting must take place with the actual developer of the Grace site; Hines Company, in order to review the size- the roadways and impact of the proposal in the neighborhood.

The hearing was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

For the Committee

Councillor Alice K. Wolf
Chair

* - at the end of the last page
- put an asterisk then put this in
* The Committee agreed that
with regard to the dump site,

(1) letters of ~~offer~~ support for its
safety would be sought from
DEQE and the EPA;

(2) Testing for any radioactivity
would be performed;

(3) ^{Actual} Monitoring will continue through
the construction process.

^{Body}
~~Alex~~ INGLIS *

(This gets added to the text
of the Environment Committee
report from the April 9th
meeting)

Councillor Duehay questioned the ground water flow towards the Fresh Pond Reservation. Mr. Callahan responded by stating that the level of Fresh Pond virtually makes the water flow into it impossible. Also he continued, there remains mud and clay as far as 90 feet down from the former brick yard which occupied the former dump site, creating a built in obstacle for the water flow. The current water flow, he stated, is in a west to northwest direction.

Councillor Duehay further questioned how the city can be certain that all appropriate testing has been done at this site. The City Manager responded by stating that as a result of the last set of public hearings the administration ordered additional testing through the proposed site in order to determine the safety of building such an athletic facility on a former dump site.

Dr. Chalfen, Public Health Commissions, stated he has fully participated throughout the monitoring process and is confident the proper tests have been done. He further stated that in such cases of dump site one can never be absolutely certain that no toxic leaks could take place, but the way to stay on top of that potential situation was to constantly monitor the site, which has and will continue to be done.

Mr. Callahan, in response to a question by Councillor Wolf regarding dumping of toxic materials by individuals in radioactive suits some 20 years ago, stated he had no knowledge of that and that the firm has determined it is relatively speaking a clean dump site. He stated his firm is confident their testing is sound.

Councillor Russell questioned whether or not any testing had been done on the oil drums found within the dump site. Mr. Kissida responded in the affirmative and stated no contaminants were found and no drums have been put there in the past ten years.

Councillor Duehay requested an outline from Dr. Chalfen relative to his involvement with the testing and monitoring of the dump site for toxic chemicals.

Dr. Chalfen responded by outlining the formation and activity of the interdepartmental task force created two years ago consisting of himself as chairman along with the Fire Chief, Public Works Commissioner, City Engineer and Water Superintendent. He further stated that in addition to the dump site the task force has also been monitoring the testing at W.R. Grace and have already collected some data relative to this EPA testing.

Councillor Duehay stated that he believed that both the EPA and DEQE should specify in writing their respective positions in the testing and monitoring which has been done at the dump site in order that the city will know in advance of any construction whether or not all state and/or federal guidelines have been followed.

At this time Councillor Wolf opened the hearing to questions from the audience.

The Committee heard from Andrew Inglis, and Edward Cyr both of whom expressed deep concern that more testing should be done and the city should move slowly before any facility is built in order to avoid a dangerous situation for the youngsters and residents who would be using it. The Committee also heard from Alfred Barretta who stated he had been a long time resident of Bay State Road, directly behind the dump, and he was very glad to see a park is going to be built for the youth of Cambridge.*

At this time the Committee took up the review and discussion of the environmental testing at the W.R. Grace site, and Councillor Wolf requested that representation of the company come forward.

Mark Stohler, Esquire, legal counsel to W.R. Grace outlined to those present the monitoring program they have conducted covering air quality, ground water quality, the EPA site assessment and the Environmental Impact Report. He stated the company has monitored and tested at 7 locations on the site thus far and the results indicate no change in ground water quality with the exception of the property directly against W.R. Grace. He further stated that a second round of testing will soon be done to further study the entire area. He further stated that the EPA will make a site visit within three weeks. Relative to the Environmental Impact Report attorney Stohler stated that a certificate with the EPA was filed March 13, 1986 and he hoped that a draft report would be issued by June of 1986 with a final report being issued by December.

Councillor Wolf voiced concern that the public be given ample opportunity to provide input to W.R. Grace regarding the E.I.R.

Councillor Duehay stated he hoped the Health Commission and the task force would take a vigorous stance in terms of reviewing the draft report and if necessary resources weren't available that he contact the City Manager to provide some. Furthermore he requested the Health Commissioner to work with the North Cambridge Stabilization Committee and the Toxic Alert group once the draft report was issued.

Dr. Chalfen agreed and stated he fully intended to be involved and to involve the various neighborhood groups. Furthermore he stated that his task force possessed some expertise to review such documents but if

additional help is required he would talk with the City Manager. Councillor Wolf questioned whether or not a public health study had been done with the neighborhood around W. R. Grace based on previously mentioned concerns regarding sickness within the immediate area.

Dr. Chalfen responded by stating he formed a small sub-committee of the task force to conduct just a study and it is currently reviewing the data collected from the survey.

At this time Councillor Wolf opened the meeting up to the audience and the Committee heard from Jed Lowry, Edward Cyr and Kate Mattes, all of whom voiced concern regarding too little time to respond to the draft E.I.R. once its completed and the fact that a meeting must take place with the actual developer for the Grace site; Hines Company, in order to review the size-the roadways and the impact of the proposal in the neighborhood.

*The Committee agreed that with regard to the dump site:-

1. Letters of support for its safety would be sought from the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering and the Environmental Protection Agency;
2. Testing for any radioactivity would be preformed;
3. Actual monitoring will continue through the construction process.

The hearing was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

For the Committee



Councillor Alice K. Wolf
Chair

City of Cambridge

In City Council April 7, 1986

The Committee on Environment conducted a public hearing, on Tuesday, March 25, 1986 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the M.E. Fitzgerald Elementary School, Cambridge. The purpose of the meeting was to review a status report on the former municipal dumpsite relative to environmental testing; as well as to discuss any remaining potential environmental hazards as well as to discuss the W.R. Grace site, testing at the site and to review the City Manager's report on environmental testing.

Councillor Alice Wolf, Chair for the City Council Committee on Environment opened the meeting welcoming all who came and stated the city had been grateful to have been the recipient of a \$ 2M grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the direct purpose of converting the former dump site into a comprehensive recreational facility.

At this time Councillor Wolf stated she would like to hear from the City Manager regarding this particular phase of the hearing. City Manager Robert Healy briefly outlined the fact that the area in question for the development of the recreational facility has been monitored for the past several years in order that the City Council as well as the administration could be certain it would be a safe place to build the facility. He stated he is now convinced that this site is safe and looks forward to the development proceeding.

At this time Mr. Healy introduced the consultants charged with the monitoring of the site.

Mr. William Callahan, Senior Vice President of Camp Dresser and McKee, Inc. outlined for those present the 3 types of monitoring which have been done; soil, air and water quality. He stated he felt that the results of this phase of testing was consistent with previous findings.

At this time Mr. John Kissida also of CDM, outlined each phase of testing dating back to 1978 which was done by the MBTA. Furthermore he stated that ground water testing was done at 5 locations. Furthermore he indicated that during the 1985- phase II testing, some organic contaminants were found on New Street but no volatile contaminants were found.

He also said that during the 1986- phase III, new and permanent wells will be dug for additional ground water testing. Councillor Wolf questioned whether or not a problem existed at Well 13 relative to methane gas seeping out.

At this time Mr. Kissida responded by stating a cap has been placed at this location, solving the problem.

REPORT

Committee on Environment

Re: former "Dump site", related
environmental issues, W.R. Grace site
& City Manager's report on the W.R.
Grace Environmental Study.

In City Council,

April 7, 1986

Placed on file