



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

APRIL 8, 1994

RECEIVED
94 APR 12 AM 8:45
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

TO: City Manager

FROM: Managing Director, Inspectional Services

RE: Council Order #09, dated 3/28/94 RE: Gas Odors Emanating from the Gas Transmission Facility on Brookford Street

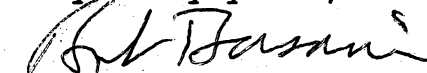
1. On Friday, April 8, I toured the Brookford Street Transmission Facility with senior managers from Algonquin Gas and COMGAS. Present also were representatives from the Fire Department and Health and Hospitals.

2. The Brookford Street Facility is a pressure reducing station where gas from the high pressure distribution lines(Algonquin) is reduced and distributed through the COMGAS system. The facility contains 6 large pressure reducing valves that require servicing by COMGAS technicians on at least an annual basis which usually takes about seven days. Because it is necessary to bleed the system, some gas is released to the atmosphere that would be noticeable for a few hours(depending on atmospheric conditions) in the surrounding area.

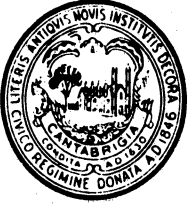
3. The odors reported a few weeks ago were the result of this routine maintenance procedure where two of the six valves were serviced. I was advised by the COMGAS representative, that within the next two weeks, modifications and servicing will be conducted on the four remaining valves.

4. The maintenance procedures followed on this system are in my opinion necessary and I have been assured that appropriate safety procedures are followed. COMGAS notifies the Fire Department prior to conducting maintenance on the system. I requested that they also notify Inspectional Services in advance so we can be in a better position to respond to any citizen concerns. I also suggested to COMGAS that they conduct a PR type education program with residents in the immediate area so they will better understand their operations.

Very truly yours,


R. R. Bersani

cc
Fire Chief
Commissioner of Health and Hospitals



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

491 BROADWAY, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138
FIRE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING



KEVIN J. FITZGERALD
CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

(617) 349-4900
FAX (617) 349-4912

April 11, 1994

Robert Healy
City Manager
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: Council Order #9 of March 18, 1994 - Gas Odors Emanating From The Gas
Transmitting Facility on Brookford Street

Dear Mr. Healy:

On Friday, April 8, 1994 at 10:00 AM, Deputy Chief James Harrington and Lieutenant Lawrence Hodgdon met with representatives of the Algonquin Gas Transmission Company and Com Gas at the Brookford Street Gas Transmission Facility. Others in attendance were Robert Bersani and George Murphy from Inspectional Services and Kevin Doherty from the Health Commission Office.

Fire Department records for the past nine months show no calls in the neighborhood for an odor of gas. A representative from Com Gas reported that they received four gas odor calls in 1993, two of which were for a leak on a meter fit and the other leak at the service in neighborhood dwellings, the other two calls were foundless. In 1994 Com Gas reports one gas odor call and this was for a problem inside Universal Rubber with their boiler.

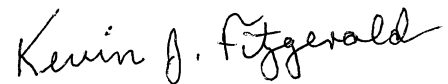
The Department of Transportation requires annual maintenance and it is possible that an odor is emitted during this period. Every precaution is taken to prevent the escape of odors such as a charcoal filter bed with exhaust fans and constant electronic monitoring of the building.

April 11, 1994

A 55 Gallon cylinder of mercaptan mixture which is a clear colorless to light yellow liquid with a very offensive odor is introduced into the gas to give it an odor, these cylinders are changed about once a month. Every precaution is taken against accidental spillage during these changeovers.

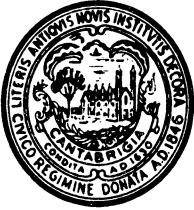
In 1992 this building was completely re-constructed with the latest technology and equipment for a transfer station.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin J. Fitzgerald".

Kevin J. Fitzgerald
Chief of Department

KJF/mm



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

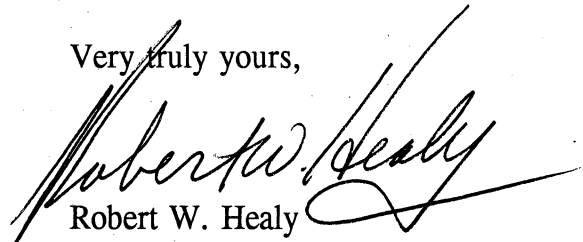
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

April 25, 1994

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 18, regarding gas odors emanating from the gas transmission facility on Brookford Street, received from Managing Director of Inspectional Services Robert Bersani, as well as Fire Chief Kevin Fitzgerald.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

Consent Agenda #4

S-185

Transmitting comm. from R.W. Healy relative
to Awaiting Report Item, 18 re: gas odors from the gas t
transmission facility on Brookford Street.

for original order see

1994 City Managers Request
93

In City Council April 25, 1994

Placed on file.