

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Environmental Quality Engineering

Metropolitan Boston - Northeast Region

323 New Boston Street, Woburn, MA 01801

ANTHONY D. CORTESE, Sc.D.

Commissioner

727-5194

935-2160

June 18, 1984

Ms. Joan Lastovica, City Engineer
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: CAMBRIDGE- Solid Wastes,
Closed Landfill,
New Street

Dear Ms. Lastovica:

Engineers from the Metropolitan Boston/Northeast Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering have reviewed a letter/report dated July 18, 1983 from Haley & Aldrich, Inc. to Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc. concerning the combustible gas monitoring program at the New Street Landfill site in Cambridge, and also a subsequent report dated October 31, 1983 and a letter from Camp Dresser & McKee dated October 26, 1983 regarding environmental impacts caused by groundwater movement through the site.

The Department commends the City of Cambridge for its good judgement and decisiveness in undertaking these studies, and would agree that they were imperative to adequately protect the public health and safety of its citizens, those proximate to the landfill because of combustible decomposition gases, as well as those of the entire city through its water supply.

The reports themselves were conducted in accordance with up-to-date sanitary engineering practice and the Department generally concurs with the conclusions, except that they did not address the long term, nor specify some necessary follow-up.

With regards to the gas monitoring, and in order to provide the necessary levels of public health and safety protection, the City should continue its evaluation at this facility as follows:

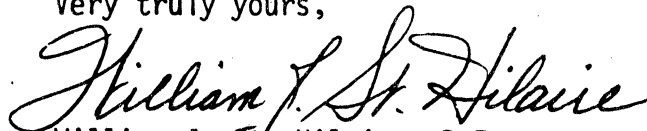
1. More information in the vicinity of observation wells 5 and 5A is necessary. The venting trench around the Briston Arms Apartments is supposed to vent gases from outside the trench also. The exact location of well 5A is not specified but the effectiveness of the double trench in this area is not delineated either. (see p. 2, end of 4th paragraph, Haley & Aldrich report)
2. Additional combustible gas monitoring is necessary in the vicinity of new wells W13 and W16 as suggested in the Haley & Aldrich report (see p. 2, 5th paragraph), around W16 for the same reasons as noted in #1 above.
3. With the above clarifications, a long-term, less extensive, gas monitoring program should be established. In this regard, the destruction of wells W9 and W10, or any others on the perimeter, rep-

resent a significant gap in any long-term monitoring program and should be replaced with new installations.

4. The same is true with the groundwater monitoring and its potential affect on Fresh Pond water quality, a long-term monitoring plan should be established, especially for particular instances when there are problems or shut downs at the New Street Pumping Station. The Department agrees with Camp Dresser & McKee's conclusion that, under the conditions encountered in this monitoring program, the overall affect on water quality in Fresh Pond is negligible. Less frequent but longer term monitoring should be implemented to substantially widen the conditions under which this conclusion remains true.

The Department requests that it be kept informed of any further actions by the City of Cambridge in this regard, and remains available to assist in these endeavors wherever possible.

Very truly yours,



William J. St. Hilaire, P.E.
Regional Environmental Engineer

WJH/cd

cc: Haley & Aldrich, Inc., 238 Main Street, P.O. Box 60, Cambridge, MA 02142
Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc., One Center Plaza, Boston, MA 02108
Cambridge Water Department
Cambridge Board of Health
DEQE, Division of Solid & Hazardous Wastes, One Winter St., Boston, MA 02108



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

November 5, 1984

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed for your information are two documents: the June 18, 1984 letter from The Department of Environmental Quality Engineering relative to the monitoring of groundwater and methane at the City Dump Site, and a copy of the Results of the Cambridge Dump Site Comprehensive Monitoring Program by Camp, Dresser & McKee.

As these documents indicate, I have been concerned from the onset of the dump reconstruction project as to safety and environmental issues.

The City will continue to actively monitor the site for environmental purposes in accordance with the D.E.Q.E. recommendations.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Encs. 2

5679

Re: monitoring of ground-water & methane at
the City Dump Site & enclosing copies of a
comm. from the D.E.Q.E. & Results of the Cam-
bridge Dump Site Comprehensive Monitoring
Program by Camp, Dresser & McKee.

(of everything)
copy sent to Councilor Duchay, Chairman,
Committee on Environment in his Council
chamber of Friday, 11/16/84 mlh

In City Council,

November 5, 1984

11/5/84

Referred to

Comm on Environment