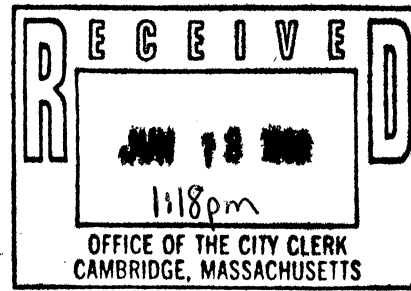


June 18, 1998

Cambridge City Council
Cambridge, Massachusetts
795 Mass Ave. 02139



Dear Councilors:

I would like to bring to your attention a matter which has been before you before in the manner of an inquiry and response, and which has now been confirmed.

On November 20, 1997, the Alewife Study Group presented facts to DEP Commissioner David Struhs and the Cambridge City Council concerning asbestos usage by the former Dewey & Almy Co. (now W.R. Grace Co.) at the 62 Whittemore Ave. facility. In response, W.R. Grace communicated to the DEP and the Cambridge City Council on January 13, 1998 that they had no information regarding a release or threat of a release in the area formerly occupied by Buildings 11 and 12.

In addition, Grace added that the only other asbestos-related activity that Grace has been able to identify at the Cambridge location occurred in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Although Grace did agree to sample a limited area of the 27 acre site, the question remains as to why after "299 borings and test pits with associated soil samples" since 1984, the idea never occurred to either Grace or its professional consultant to put some of the soil under a microscope and look for asbestos. According to Grace, this was never done. Since ample evidence of this activity was readily available in annual reports, and particularly since the usage was as recent as the mid 1970's it is a question that bothers those concerned with the environmental status of the site and the method and general practices associated with compliance to the MCP.

The results of the sampling show that the site is characterized by measurable asbestos contamination. The exact nature, extent and footprint of this condition is as of yet unclear and will be presumably a result of further testing. We do know that sample ranges of trace to 20 percent Chrysotile and Amosite asbestos are confirmed, and that this sampling evidence includes building locations well beyond the footprints of former buildings 11 and 12.

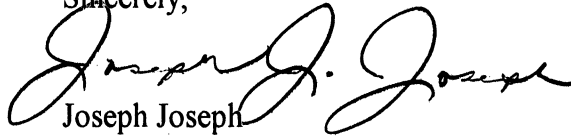
It would be useful for the City to inquire as to how and when Grace Co. will direct its consultants to amend its risk assessment in light of these new facts, and if it will implement any short term measures to assure that in the absence of more accurate site characterization, no additional public health risk exists beyond that which is currently known. Disturbable soils about many of the locations recently sampled by Grace, and the extent and actual footprint of this particular release are unknown.

Additionally, given the now established fact of this new release, the City ought to be informed by Grace how they perceive this new circumstance will be addressed with respect to all and any aspects of the MCP, and from their perspective how it will affect

any building and/or development intentions with respect to the site. This latter request would seem reasonable given that Grace is an active participant in a City sponsored rezoning initiative involving much complex discussion of potential site plans.

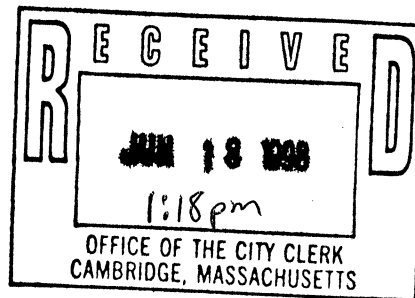
Any attention to this and related matters by the Council and the city administration would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Joseph Joseph
20 Columbus Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02140

Cc: John Devillars, U.S. EPA
Robert Sorrentino, W.R. Grace Co.
Wesley Stimson, LSP
State Senator Warren Tolman
State Representative Alice Wolf
State Senator Robert Havern
U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy
U.S. Senator John Kerry
U.S. Representative Joseph P. Kennedy
State Attorney General Scott Harsbarger
Patricia Donahue, MADEP
Alan Fierce, LSP Board
Jonathan Harr



Consnet Communication #14 4625

A communication was received from Joseph Joseph, transmitting a letter regarding the Alewife Study Group's facts relative to the W.R. Grace Co. site.

In City Council June 22, 1998

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