

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
MASSACHUSETTS

WATER DEPARTMENT
250 FRESH POND PARKWAY
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138

Nancy E. Barnes
Managing Director

617-349-4770

DATE: April 8, 1991

TO: Robert W. Healy
City Manager

FROM: Nancy E. Barnes
Managing Director - Water Department

CC: Kevin Fitzgerald
David O'Connor

RE: Consent Council Order #7, 3/4/91, Chlorine Stored in the
Fresh Pond Area

On March 15, 1991, I met with Chief Scott, Kevin Fitzgerald and David O'Connor concerning the referenced Council order. The following is our response.

The Water Department is currently working with Camp Dresser Mc Kee to replace the chlorine feed system with a sodium hypochlorite feed system for disinfection of the water. Sodium hypochlorite is not volatile and so does not pose the same risks as chlorine. It is a much safer chemical to store and use. We expect this project will be completed by the Fall of 1991.

The Police and Fire Departments have evacuation plans in place to handle emergencies such as this. The evacuations are announced by Police, Fire or Water trucks driving through neighborhoods broadcasting warnings with the public address systems in the vehicles. The Fire Department is also designated and trained to be first responders to all hazardous materials emergencies. In 1990, current emergency response procedures proved to be effective when a chlorine leak occurred. The leak was contained and no person was adversely affected.

April 8, 1991

RE: Consent Council Order #7, 3/4/91, Chlorine Stored in the
Fresh Pond Area

As part of the evacuation procedures, City Departments have the ability to insert an emergency override on cable television to notify the public of an emergency and appropriate precautions. The overrides request viewers to notify their friends and neighbors of the emergency to extend the message beyond citizens who have cable television and are watching it at the time.

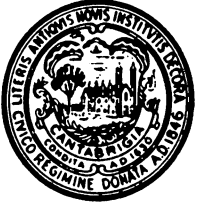
We generally agreed that it would be preferable to improve the City's ability to broadcast emergency warnings throughout the City. This could be accomplished in at least two ways: 1) Installation of Public Address loudspeakers throughout the City or 2) Installation of the telephone emergency notification system that was demonstrated at the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting in February. Either option would involve the expenditure of at least \$100,000.

Given the fact that the storage and usage of Chlorine at Fresh Pond will cease in the next 6 to 9 months, we believe that current emergency response procedures are adequate. However, we recommend that the City consider improving its ability to notify citizens of emergencies and appropriate precautions.

RECEIVED

91 APR 12 AM 10:56

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

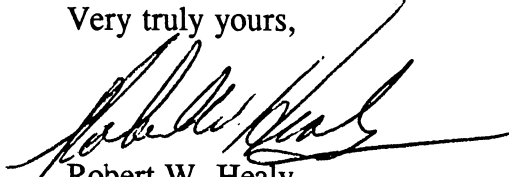
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

April 22, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 18, regarding warning systems for leakage of fumes, please find attached a response from Nancy E. Barnes, Managing Director of the Water Department, relative to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

Consent Agenda # 7

S-518

Awaiting Report Item Number 18
regarding warning systems for leakage
of fumes.

In City Council,

April 22, 1991

Placed on file