



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MASSACHUSETTS

WATER DEPARTMENT

250 FRESH POND PARKWAY

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
Executive Department

FROM:  John J. Cusack, Jr., Supt.
Water Department

DATE: January 10, 1991

SUBJECT: COUNCIL ORDER NO # 15, 11/19/90: ABERDEEN AVENUE

In response to the Council Order referenced above, please be advised that the Water Department has reviewed this item and is submitting the following information.

Aberdeen Avenue is a divided roadway and has two water mains, one on each side of the median strip. Both of these mains are unlined 6-inch cast iron mains that were installed between 1890 and 1896.

Existing, unlined water mains installed before 1922 (when the water treatment plant went in service) developed internal corrosion, which produces a rust-like scale deposit on the inside of the pipe walls. This scale deposit consists of iron oxides, and it separates from the pipe wall when there are flow surges or hydrants on the main is operated incorrectly. The result is a red-brown rusty water appearance, that produces complaints about the aesthetics of water. When consumer complaints about rusty water are reported, the Water Dept. goes to the service area and flushes hydrants on the main to clear the lines.

Because of the excessive age of the mains in Aberdeen Avenue, the Water Dept. has received periodic complaints about discolored water there. The response has been flowing the hydrants there to eliminate the color by flushing the rust deposits.

The long-term solution to distribution system problems such as this is to replace these old, undersized, unlined cast iron mains with new cement-lined ductile iron pipe. The replacement cost of both mains in Aberdeen Avenue is estimated at \$ 200,000.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

January 14, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 33, regarding clean drinking water in the Aberdeen Avenue area, from John Cusack, Superintendent of the Water Department.

This project will be evaluated along with other improvements in the FY92 Capital Budget process.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

Agenda # 15

S. 131

Awaiting Report Item Number 33 regarding
clean drinking water in the Aberdeen
Ave. area.

In City Council,

January 14, 1991

Placed on file