

JOHN O'CONNOR

August 20, 1998

Robert Sorrentino
Vice President and General Manager
Grace Construction Products
W.R. Grace & Co.-Conn.
62 Whittemore Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140

Dear Mr. Sorrentino:

As a long-time environmental and public health activist, I am writing to urge you to address the environmental problems related to past production at the W.R. Grace site at 62 Whittemore Ave. Since the recent discovery of asbestos at both the W.R. Grace site and on Russell Field, I have met with members of the Alewife Study Group (ASG) and Alewife Neighbors, Inc. (ANI) and have become particularly concerned about the ongoing implications for public health posed by this site.

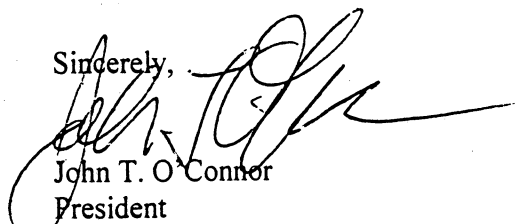
In order to stand up for the needs of our community—as we did with the North Cambridge Toxic Alert to stop Arthur D. Little's nerve gas testing—we must have more information. Alewife neighbors have the right to know what has happened in their neighborhood and the right to impact future plans for the Grace site. The decisions of W.R. Grace affect not only North Cambridge and Alewife residents, but the entire surrounding communities of Cambridge and Arlington.

To fully involve the community in the decision-making process, W.R. Grace should provide for the following: (1) a publicly advertised meeting; (2) a 20-day post-meeting comment period; and (3) follow-up communication after the testing is completed which meets the standards set by neighborhood groups. The ability to make appropriate future zoning and re-use decisions depends upon having a complete understanding of the nature and extent of contamination. W.R. Grace should call a public meeting as soon as possible to fully disclose the status of its current testing protocol and its plans.

Further, the Alewife community and other Cambridge neighbors deserve a complete toxicological history of the production that has occurred at the site in order to be able to design testing plans and contribute to a complete and accurate characterization. In addition to asbestos, it is my understanding that other contaminants such as diisopropyl sulfide have never been sufficiently measured or studied. It is W.R. Grace's responsibility to immediately present this information to us.

I urge you to recognize the significance of the health problems the toxic waste at W.R. Grace may pose now, rather than continuing to delay an already long overdue process. Please inform me of the proposed public meeting date and any other new developments in this matter.

Sincerely,



John T. O'Connor
President
Greenworks, Inc.

Cc: Amy Church, Haley & Aldrich
Members of ANI and ASG

160 SECOND STREET CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142
617-876-6828 FAX 617-441-3322

JOHN O'CONNOR

August 31, 1998

Francis H. Duehay
Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

1998 SEP 16 P 5:06

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Mayor Duehay:

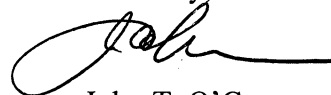
As a long-time environmental and public health activist, I am writing to urge the City Council to address the environmental problems related to past production at the W.R. Grace site at 62 Whittemore Ave. The current moratorium on development of the Grace site must stand until the neighboring citizens and city officials are satisfied that proposed development will proceed without public hazard.

The recent discoveries of asbestos and other contaminants such as di-isopropyl sulfide merit attention from the city and the Department of Environmental Protection before the acceptance of any development proposals for the W.R. Grace site. Enclosed please find the letter to W.R. Grace-Co. which I sent last week. It is vital that the city join Alewife Neighbors, Inc. (ANI) and the Alewife Study Group (ASG) in calling for full public disclosure of past production and contamination of the Grace site.

Most importantly, on behalf of Alewife residents and surrounding neighbors I encourage you to recognize the significance of the health problems that the toxic waste at W.R. Grace may pose now, by extending the development moratorium until full information is shared with the public and by leading a long-overdue investigation of this site. It is the Council's responsibility to ensure that public safety comes before the economic interests of W.R. Grace or any other company in this case.

Please inform me of the Council's plans for its next meeting regarding the Grace site and other new developments in this matter.

Sincerely,



John T. O'Connor
President
Greenworks, Inc.

Cc: Members of ANI and ASG

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617-876-6828 FAX 617-441-3322

Consent Communication #72 6/35

A communication was received from
John T. O'Connor, President,
Greenworks, Inc. urging the City
Council to address the environmental
problems related to past production
at the W.R. Grace site at 62 Whittemore
Avenue.

In City Council September 28, 1998

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