



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

April 8, 1997

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

William Gaughan
Director
Northeast/Metro Boston Regional Office
10 Commerce Way
Woburn, MA 01801

Re: W.R. Grace site, RTN# 3-0277

Dear Mr. Gaughan:

On behalf of the City of Cambridge, I would like to make a formal Freedom of Information Act request for an April 16, 1981 letter issued by the former Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE).

Enclosed is a copy of the first page of the letter from DEQE to John Dinapoli, Jr., President of Menotomy Contractor, Inc. This letter pertains to sludge solidification activities associated with remediation of the W.R. Grace site and extension of the MBTA Red Line to Alewife during the 1980s. The letter states that DEP granted permission for storage of treated materials on property adjacent to the City landfill. The City has the first page of this correspondence, and we would appreciate your providing us with a copy of the entire document and any attachments.

The City has no record of any communication by the then acting Cambridge Public Health Commissioner regarding storage of solidified sludge at the former City Dump. The City would appreciate a copy of this letter as well. In addition, as the City's records do not show that this activity actually took place, any information DEP could provide regarding whether any solidified sludge was stored at the City Dump would be very helpful.

Please call my office at 349-4300 with any questions. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely,

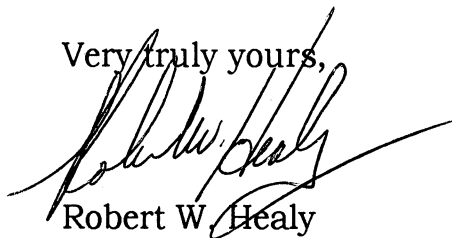
Robert W. Healy

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

- Photos taken at the time of Russell Field reconstruction (approximately 1987) show stockpiles of material that appear to have been used to raise the grade of the field. The material appears clean and not native to the site. Subsequent photos (within approximately one month) show that sod was put down on the site.
- According to the first page of an April 16, 1981 letter from DEP, storage would have only been allowed from April 15, 1981 to May 1, 1981.
- Information from the MBTA subsequent to the April 1981 letter does not reference any storage of sludge at the City landfill. In addition, subsequent correspondence discusses problems of storage areas on the Grace property for excavated material. A 1982 change order to the MBTA's contract with Perini Construction states that construction was delayed significantly in 1981 and 1982 because sludge removal proved to be more extensive than originally thought, and "...This in turn lead to a [temporary] shutdown of operations in the area of Solidified Sludge Piles." This shutdown lasted from December 1981 to April 1982 at which point disposal at the Kingston, MA landfill was arranged. (The above shutdown resulted from closure of the Kingston, MA landfill for the Winter.) Material from the MBTA construction site was taken to Kingston, MA in April 1982.

I will forward to the City Council additional I receive.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Attachment



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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

May 19, 1997

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report #4 regarding a sign-off on the W.R. Grace off-site sludge storage, please be advised of the following:

The City has no record of any communication by then-acting Cambridge Public Health Commissioner regarding storage of solidified sludge storage at the former City landfill. I have made a formal Freedom of Information Act request for the April 16, 1981 letter issued by the former Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, as well as documentation of communication from the City's Acting Health Commissioner regarding permission to store material at Russell Field (request attached).

The background information that we do have on storage at Russell Field is as follows:

- The City had a contract with the MBTA that allowed them to use Russell Field as a staging area during construction of the Red Line to Alewife. That was the same contract that allowed a similar use of Daneyh Park. This contract is the only official "sign-off" that can be identified by City staff regarding storage of material at Russell Field.
- Our records show that the MBTA contracted with Solidtek, a Georgia-based company, to solidify the sludge from lagoons and ship the material to one or more landfills.
- There is correspondence from the town of Kingston, MA that shows that treated sludge material was disposed of in its landfill.
- A small portion of Russell Field was used for storage of sludge material during on-site solidification. (The area identified is based on MBTA, W.R. Grace and City documents as well as interviews with citizens, MBTA staff and W.R. Grace Consultants.)

Consent Agenda #5

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Relative to Awaiting Report Item Number
Four, regarding a sign-off on the
W.R. Grace off-site sludge storage.

5-348

In City Council May 19, 1997

Charter Right
was exercised by
Councillor Sullivan

June 2, 1997

Referred back to
City Manager for
additional
information by
Councillor Triantafyllou