



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Mr. Robert Healy  
City Manager

Date October 3, 1983

From Chief Thomas V. Scott  
Fire Department

Reference

Subject

Dear Sir:

On Sunday evening, October 2, 1983, at 1858 hours, Engine Company #8 was dispatched to the rear of 247 Garden Street, Briston Arms, to investigate a condition at that location.

Upon the arrival of the fire company, the officer in charge reported a bluish flame coming from the old dump area. He then requested the presence of Deputy Chief John Cremins. Upon hearing this radio message, I requested the Deputy Chief to contact me and I responded to the location with him.

On investigation I observed a blue flame issuing from the vent cap which was attached to the vent pipe buried in the ground. The burning gas, I presumed, was Methane, which apparently is coming from the dump area used by the City of Cambridge for years. This particular vent pipe is located in the rear of 75 Bay State Road.

On Monday morning, October 3, 1983 at approximately 1000 hours, I responded to the dump site area with Deputy Chief Edward Dudley. We inspected the area where we observed the flame the previous evening and we noticed the gases were no longer burning.

We then proceeded to check the area and in our travel we observed flame coming from another vent pipe which is near an old tank truck body located in about the middle of the land site.

I then had a telephone conversation with Public Works Commissioner Everett Kennedy and notified him of my findings. He stated that he has spent some time recently at the site and that the present plans are to cap off the vent pipes.

This is the first incident of this type that the fire department has responded to at this location for several years.

Thomas V. Scott, Chief  
Fire Department



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To: Mr. Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

Date : October 3, 1983

From : Everett R. Kennedy *ERK*  
Acting Commissioner of Public Works

Reference

Subject : Dump Site

A short report concerning activities on this site on New Street. Last week it was called to our attention that a fire had occurred at one of our observation wells. Apparently someone has discovered that the continually venting methane gas will burn. At my request, engineers from Camp Dresser & McKee, and Haley and Aldrich, along with City Engineer Lastovica and Project Manager John Powers of the "T" toured the site. At that time, Tuesday, it was evident that one observation well could be set on fire; there was no evidence of an underground fire. There was an agreement to closely monitor the wells, including determination of underground temperatures throughout all the site, which information will be useful in future activities; routine monitoring of methane continues as part of our ongoing engineering review.

At 2:30 PM this date, there was no evidence of any "burning" on the site. In discussion with Chief Scott I have agreed to meet him on the site on Tuesday, 10/4/83. I do not consider that there is anything unusual occurring, but as a prevention steps are being taken to "cap" the wells to minimize future vandalism. If anything should happen to change the situation, I will notify your office at once.



**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE**  
**INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

Robert W. Healy, City Manager,  
Chief Anthony Paolillo, Police Dept.,  
Chief Thomas Scott, Fire Dept.,  
**To** Russell B. Higley, City Solicitor,  
Everett Kennedy, Commissioner of Public Works,  
William Lannon, Superintendent of Schools  
**From** Paul E. Healy, City Clerk  
**Subject** Public hearing to discuss the present use of the  
former City dump site

**Date** October 7, 1983

**Reference**

Please be advised that the City Council at its meeting of October 3, 1983 has scheduled a public hearing to discuss the present use of the former City dump site by the Perini Corporation and the status of methane gas vented at this site and the area adjacent to Bellis Circle and also future plans for the construction of an athletic field at this location. Said hearing to be held on Monday, October 17, 1983 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, City Hall.

Your presence or that of your appropriate designee is requested at this time in order to provide a complete report to the Council, in connection with the above referenced matters.

Your very kind cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated by the City Council.

PEH/mh



# City of Cambridge

13.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 3, 1983

COUNCILLOR DANEHY  
VICE-MAYOR RUSSELL

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environment and Quality Engineering (DEQE), with a view in mind of having the DEQE examine the site of the former city dump and the parking lot adjacent to the Fresh Pond Shopping Mall for the possibility of contaminated material and to report all their findings to this City Council as soon as possible.

In City Council October 3, 1983.  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 9 members.  
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul E. Healy".

Order # 13 P' 261

C. Danehy & VM Russell order re: City Manager be requested to confer with the Dept. of Environment & Quality Engineering Re: examination by the DEQE of the former city dump & adjacent parking lot for possible contaminated material.

In City Council,

October 3, 1983

10/3/1983

LD  
CC

Andre Adair

-9-

*[Faint vertical stamp or signature]*