

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Metropolitan Boston - Northeast Regional Office

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
Lt. Governor

TRUDY CONE
Secretary

DAVID B. STRUHS
Commissioner

JAN 09 1998

Mr. Craig A Kelley, Esq.
6 St. Gerard Terrace
Cambridge, MA 02140

Mr. David H. Bass
23 Norris St.
Cambridge, MA 02140

Joseph J. Joseph
20 Columbus Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02140

RE: CAMBRIDGE - W.R. Grace Facility
62 Whittemore Street
RTN 3-0277

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your letter and petition dated November 20, 1997 regarding potential asbestos contamination at the former W. R. Grace facility in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Your letter requests that the Department require: an accounting of asbestos use and manufacture at the Cambridge facility; additional soil sampling and analysis for asbestos; and reevaluation of the regulatory status and potential risks posed by the site. You also raise concerns about disclosure of information by the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) and the Licensed Site Professional (LSP).

As you know, the Department has privatized many aspects of the 21E Waste Site Cleanup program, leaving the direction of site assessment and cleanup activities at many sites under the purview of an LSP. Direct oversight by DEP is reserved for only the highest priority cases, those which pose the greatest risk to the public or the environment. One mechanism to provide a "check and balance" of the work being conducted under the redesigned 21E program, was the establishment of an Audit Section in each regional office. After receiving your letter, I asked the Chief of our Audits Section, Patricia Donahue, to contact the Licensed Site Professional overseeing response actions at this site and inquire into the status of investigations of the issues you raised. It is the Department's understanding that an evaluation of historical operations which may have used asbestos materials at the Whittemore Street facility is being conducted. Based upon the historical review, a sampling program will be initiated to determine if asbestos may have been released into the surrounding environment. It appears that W.R. Grace is being responsive to the community's concerns and that a complete audit of response actions is not necessary at this time. However, the Department wishes to keep in communication with the Alewife Study Group and W.R. Grace to resolve this particular issue.

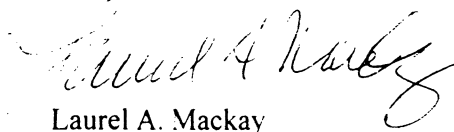
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Alewife Study Group
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If your group has concerns regarding the Rules of Professional Conduct regarding the actions of an LSP, then the appropriate complaint forum is the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Professionals ("LSP Board"). You may contact the LSP Board directly at (617) 556-1091 for further information.

Meanwhile, I hope that the Alewife Study Group will continue its participation in the Public Involvement Process to ensure that the interests of the citizens of Cambridge are addressed. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call Patricia Donahue at (781) 932-7730.

Very truly yours,



Laurel A. Mackay
Deputy Regional Director
Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup

cc: DEP/NERO/Files/Data Entry
DEP/Boston, Commissioner's Office
Cambridge City Council, Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139
John DeVillars, U.S. EPA, JFK Federal Bldg., Boston, MA 02203
Karen Stromberg, DEP/NERO
W.R. Grace Co., One town Center Road, Boca Raton, FL 33486-1010 Attn: Mark Stoler, Chief Environmental Counsel
W. R. Grace & Co., 62 Whittemore Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140 Attn: Robert Sorventino, V.P.
Haley & Aldrich, Inc., 465 Medford St., Suite 2200, Boston, MA 02129-1400 Attn: Wesley Stimson, LSP
State Senator Warren Tolman, State House, Boston, MA 02133
State Representative Alice Wolf, State House, Boston, MA 02133
State Senator Robert Havern, State House, Boston, MA 02133
U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy, 2400 JFK Federal Bldg., Boston, MA 02203
U.S. Senator John Kerry, 1 Bowdoin Square - 10th Floor, Boston, MA 02114
U.S. Representative Joseph P. Kennedy, 529 Main St., Schraffts Bldg., Charlestown, MA 02129
Cambridge Main Library, 494 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138
North Cambridge Library, 60 Rindge Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138

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Consent Communication #13 5-54

Communication was received from Laurel A. Mackay, Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup, Department of Environmental Protection, regarding W.R. Grace Facility - 62 Whittemore Street.

In City Council January 26, 1998
All items carried forward to be a part
of City Council Meeting of
February 2, 1998 on motion of
Councillor Sullivan.

In City Council February 2, 1998

PLACED ON FILE