

2003 NOV 24 A 9:01
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

36 Jay Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

November 22, 2003

Cambridge City Council
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear City Councilors:

In my morning-after reflection on the city's agreement with Harvard University regarding the Carlson petition, I realized that there was one concession that the city made at the last minute without a full understanding of its ramifications. Specifically, steam and electrical generation at Blackstone station (NSTAR site) are now allowed uses as a result of the new ordinance. Harvard has not been forthcoming regarding its plans for Blackstone station. I speculate that Harvard plans to expand Blackstone station in order to generate steam and electricity for the new Allston campus.

I feel we were somewhat irresponsible in granting this concession without clearly understanding the ramifications. However, it is not too late to remedy the situation. I urge the council to commission a study to determine the worst-case scenario for what the owner of Blackstone station could develop given the new zoning. Moreover, I urge the council not to grant Harvard an easement under Hingham Street until this study has been completed.

We may discover that the worst-case scenario is not so bad. However, if the worst-case development places an undue burden on the neighbors in the Blackstone station area, then the city may need to renegotiate the agreement with Harvard. If we get to that stage, then the city will have been remiss if it granted the Hingham Street easement prematurely.

Sincerely,



Alec Wysoker
Riverside Neighborhood Study Committee member

4055

Communication #2

A communication was received from Alec Wysoker, regarding the Carlson petition and the city's agreement with Harvard University.

In City Council December 8, 2003

PLACED ON FILE.