



**Environmental
Justice League of
Rhode Island**

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May 19, 2010

Dear Mr. Martella,

The neighbors of the Gorham Manufacturing site would like to thank you for participating in the Community Forum last week on May 11, 2010 at Alvarez High School. We wanted to take the opportunity to review what came out of the meeting in terms of expected timelines and commitments for the remaining cleanup actions at the site.

The most immediate concerns for residents are the maintenance of the fences and replacement of warning signs as cleanup actions continue. Tom Deller from the Providence Redevelopment Authority (PRA) committed to:

Immediately close the open gate to Parcel C, located at Crescent Street and Adelaide Avenue—and report to residents as soon as this has happened

Replace warning signs in English and Spanish as soon as they arrive, to place along the fence perimeter at frequent intervals—and report to residents once the signs have arrived

Ensure the Department of Public Property and Buildings is responsive to residents when there are holes or gaps in the fences around the site and creates a consistent schedule to check fences every two months for holes, gaps, or open gates

Identify and delegate responsibility to one person in the City to serve as a contact for residents if there are problems with the fences in the future—Pleshette Mitchell in the Office of Neighborhood Services will serve as this contact

We will follow up with Mr. Deller by June 1st to check in on the progress of these items.

All three parties, the PRA, Textron, and the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) laid out their remaining steps and timelines for the two unremediated parcels C and D, and made a commitment to work together, as well as reporting to a committee of residents, to make progress on finalizing and implementing the cleanup plan for each parcel.

The timeline as we understand it is as follows:

Within 30 days to 6 months there will be a proposal submitted to the Providence City Council to request a bond issue in order to remediate Parcel C up to residential standards. June 30th was identified as the date when the City Council needs to pass the city's annual budget. The PRA and Councilman Leon Tejada said they would be identifying funds that could pay for full remediation of Parcel C by that date. Textron also said they need to conduct further investigation of Parcel C; and that they are responsible for bringing the parcel up to industrial/commercial standards. DEM said the approval process for a modified remedial plan based on the prior-approved plan for the YMCA facility would be relatively quick.

Textron will continue to focus remediation efforts on the Parcel A groundwater plume over the course of 2010 (focused follow-up groundwater investigation) and 2011 (implement groundwater remedy). This plume is necessary to control because it continues to contaminate the pond cove.

DEM will work to finalize Textron's site investigation for Parcel D and proposed remedy over Summer 2010. After this approval goes through, there will be a public comment period as required by DEM's Brownfields regulations.

Once Textron receives approvals from DEM on Parcel D, Textron will begin to create a Remedial Action Work Plan for the parcel over the course of 2010. Expected implementation of this plan, if all approvals are received, will be over the course of 2011, starting in the Spring. This remedial plan will include remediation of the land along the edge of the pond and the cove. A next phase would address sediments at the bottom of the cove.

We will follow up with each responsible entity according to this timeline to check in on the progress of further cleanup actions.

In addition, we wanted to summarize our understanding that Parcel C is intended to be a multipurpose recreation area with athletic fields and a small parking lot. However, in order to not create more pollution sources for Mashapaug Pond from urban street run-off, we would like to reiterate our request for alternatives to the proposed parking lot. There is ample parking already on the property and use of the athletic fields anticipated to be built on the parcel would most likely be used after school or on weekends when the parking lot for the school would not be used. The other alternative would be to create a parking area using porous material that will allow for greater drainage. Residents are also requesting that the City begin developing the remediation plan for Parcel C now, so that when money is found to pay for this, the plan is ready.

The questions raised at the meeting about independent verification of water testing results for Mashapaug Pond must be further addressed in subsequent meetings with residents.

We look forward to working with the PRA, DEM, and Textron to effectively communicate with residents about further cleanup actions at the Gorham site.

Sincerely,

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cc: Thomas Deller, Providence Redevelopment Agency
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Jaimeson Schiff, Textron
Michael Murphy, MACTEC
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Rep. Scott Slater, District 10
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