

**Adelaide Avenue Environmental Justice Coalition
60 Crescent Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02907**

April 4, 2008

Mr. Terrence D. Gray, P.E.
Assistant Executive Director
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02808-5025

**RE: Park Parcel Remediation
Incomplete Investigation-RAWP**

Dear Mr. Gray:

On March 12, 2008 you received correspondence from Robert C. Brayley, Executive Director for Environment, Health & Safety at Textron Inc. In his letter concerning the ongoing discussions relevant to the Park Parcel's incomplete remediation investigations, he makes assertions as to the sentiment of the community concerning Textron's progress in this protracted and complex issue. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify our position on this matter.

- Mr. Brayley is concerned that in the absence of immediate RIDEM staff attention to this matter, another construction season will pass with no progress made. In the winter of 2004 Tom Deller, Executive Director of the Providence Redevelopment Authority unilaterally made the decision to place an ill-advised high school on this Textron/Gorham Manufacturing site. He did so without consulting the RIDEM, the community at large, or the Providence School Board. As far as the community is concerned; we feel the RIDEM has done an outstanding job under the circumstances and will continue to support you regardless how much time is necessary to bring this complex project to closure. The City of Providence and Textron Inc. have utilized the strategy of "hurry up and wait" throughout this entire ordeal.

Ironically Mr. Deller did confer with Textron Inc. and according to documents and modified agreements between the two, Mr. Brayley through his staff supported Mr. Deller's decision in 2004 to construct a school on Textron's site. In so doing, Mr. Brayley and his entire staff acknowledged and accepted the extraordinary end use change of this property from industrial to residential. A residential level of remediation to the highest order; our very future, this community's children and grandchildren. As we all now know the City of Providence recklessly implemented construction on this site in early spring of

2005 without any authorization or permits from the RIDEM and others. As was mentioned above, not even the community was informed of this development prior to the hastily engineered excavation of the site. These issues are relevant to the Park Parcel's disposition because of the undeniable and inseparable relationship the Park Parcel now has with the school property, as well as Mashapaug Pond and Cove.

- The community has grappled with the conditions and inadequacies at the Textron hazardous waste site since they abandoned the property in 1986. Sadly, when Textron did lock their doors the community was led to believe there were no environmental conditions or contaminations of concern on their property or in Mashapaug Cove. As we are all aware today, those early assessments were terribly inadequate. The community has waited more than twenty years to see this property remediated properly. It was to be a "Showcase Brownfield" after all.

Textron's sense of urgency for the Park Parcel is not the community's emergency. We have presented the issues we feel are still unresolved concerning the Park Parcel investigation to your Office of Waste Management. If another season passes because all parties are working together to resolve the long term implications of these decisions, so be it.

The delays to date impacting the remediation of the Park Parcel are Textron's alone. A quick review of the process beginning in the summer of 2006 will reveal the actual obstacles and delays, none of which the RIDEM is responsible. The community continues to support and believe in the integrity of both the RIDEM and this process.

Lastly, the community considers the work and progress of the Park Parcel a component of the Court Order issued in April of 2006. We also believe that the quality of the investigation and remediation of the Park Parcel is an element of that component. If the RIDEM, the City of Providence, or Textron Inc. does not concur, then the community believes it has the right to address these issues and solicit the court's feelings on this matter.

Sincerely,

Adelaide Avenue Environmental Justice Coalition

cc:

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