

DATE: January 5, 2023

TO: Michelle McLarney
RI Department of Environmental Management
Office of Waste Management
235 Promenade St.
Providence, RI 02908-5767

FROM:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE: Questions From Abutters' Review
Site Investigation
Robin Rug Manufacturing
125 Thames St.
Bristol, RI 02809

We thank you for granting an extension of the review time. Our questions and comments are mostly directed towards the parking lot East of the Robin Rug Building, but we have added commented on additional areas of concern. I have included questions from all neighbors who provided them.

Please Note:

There are several businesses within the abutting area. It is imperative that the businesses be informed of excessive noise and dust so they can make the necessary changes in their schedules to eliminate the potential business loss during remediation.

East of Thames St, Bristol PARKING LOT

DEM test Results

Regarding the hazardous material identified by DEM

- What is the Case and File Number for this hazard site analysis?
- What is the remediation plan for this hazard material on this site?
- How can we view and read the results of the soil tests? What are the steps to request access and review of the report and the remediation plan?

Dust Issues and Digging and Communication Timelines

- Will abutters be notified in advance of planned digs - dates, locations, purpose, depth, area involved so they can close windows, keep children, pets, etc. protected and safe?

- What is the timeline and schedule of all removal and remediation- How long will the process take?
- What will the developers do to help abutters if we feel dust from their work has contaminated our homes, vegetation, cars, etc.? Will there be tenting of the dig area to protect surrounding properties?
- What will be the process, if during remediation, it is determined that the area of contamination has spread to an abutter's property? If dug up and removed, how will the dust and debris be contained and not spread to abutters' yards, homes, gardens? Will the developer be required to remediate that as well and how do we oversee this?
- How close to the neighboring property lines will the digging and equipment be?
- How will the stated contaminants be remediated?
- If paved over, will future digging be illegal and fineable?
- What authorization, inspections, certifications were conducted prior to previous extensive digging and hazardous material containment in the subject parking lot within the past year?
- Will we have a direct DEM contact should we feel the developer is failing to protect us and our properties from contamination?
- Will there be a liaison assigned between the DEM, Town Administration and direct abutters so we have oversight during the abatement and remediation?

Regarding the project buildings on the east side of Thames that abut neighbors, there is lead based paint on those buildings. Some of them are peeling paint chips and sheets that are blown around the neighborhood with winds, rain, etc. Paint chip tests have shown positive for lead.

Previously, two (2) digs were conducted in the east side parking lots: One was directly next to the 341 Hope St, Bristol, RI 02809 back yard Carriage House, dug by a backhoe to about 6 ft or more, while searching for a ground fuel tank and a hole was dug, work was conducted, the hole refilled and paved over, on the easternmost driveway from Thames St. More digging will be required for drainage, containment, utilities, curbing, parking place stops, etc. How will these contaminated areas be inspected, contained, authorized, handled?

In order to correct the previous 2 digs mentioned above where no notification was given prior to digging,

- What procedures and processes will be required for these buildings to test, remove and seal lead paint and dust prior to sale?
- If not conducted prior to sale, what firm, written commitments will be required and enforced prior to sale, to ensure the problems are fixed and neighbors are informed at any point during removal.

In summary, contaminants attributed to fill materials and/or incomplete combustion were detected in areas throughout the paved parking area. As these portions of the site directly abut our properties, and thus pose a risk exposure potential, we expect that the Department will require strict adherence to the project's specifications and Soils Management Plan, including pavement thickness and compaction, soil loading, unloading and storage, and dust control measures, and will be maintained throughout construction of the paved parking areas.

As neighbors we will notify the Department should we observe deviations from these requirements, but the responsibility should not and must not be placed on the abutters. It is the developer's responsibility and liability.

We feel that it is important to keep communication lines open and have contacts assigned to us to keep our quality of life as little interrupted as possible. We do want to work collaboratively as we have demonstrated in our letters thus far.

We also would very much the opportunity to have a joint meeting to include some leaders of our town so that there will be point people assigned or communicated as the project begins to unfold.

Sincerely, for the signed abutters listed

[REDACTED]