Providence Redevelopment Agency

MAYOR DAVID N. CICILLINE

WRITTEN COMMENT ON PROPOSED REMEDY FOR FORMER GORHAM SITE

The City of Providence is seeking to build a 450-student high school on Parcel B of the site of the former Gorham Industrial Facility on Adelaide Avenue in Providence, RI. The deadline for submission of written comment on the technical feasibility of the proposed remedy for this site is Friday, November 18, 2005 at 4:30 p.m. The status of the project is as follows:

- The RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) has deemed complete an environmental Site Investigation performed by the City of Providence over the past six months.

- Work completed during the Site Investigation included soil, groundwater, and soil vapor sampling activities. In some areas of the site, the Site Investigation found chemicals at concentrations that could potentially cause health risks if exposure to these chemicals were to occur. The chemicals include total petroleum hydrocarbons (for example, chemicals found in fuel oil) in soil at 20-25 feet below the ground surface, and volatile organic compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (for example, benzene, an additive to gasoline, and trichloroethene, used in cleaning solvents for machinery) in soil at various depths.

- The proposed remedy to eliminate exposure to the chemicals is to install an engineered cap throughout the site and an active sub-slab venting system beneath the proposed school.

- The cap will consist of a combination of paved roadways and walkways, the building foundation itself, and clean fill material placed over the site to eliminate direct contact with contaminated soils. The cap will be annually inspected and maintained. Annual reports certifying the integrity of the cap will be submitted to RIDEM. There will also be a legal deed restriction placed on the property and a soil management plan prepared for the site that will prohibit or restrict future site development activities.

- The sub-slab venting system will remove soil vapor from beneath the building to eliminate the possibility of exposure to contaminants from vapor intrusion. The venting system will include sensors and/or monitors to verify that potentially harmful vapors are not present in the school building.

- Copies of the site investigation summary reports and various other site-related documents, including responses to RIDEM comments, are available for review at:
  - A repository established at the Knight Memorial Library, 275 Elmwood Avenue in Providence. Please call 401-455-8102 for directions and hours of operation; and
  - RIDEM's Office of Waste Management, 235 Promenade Street, 3rd Floor, Providence, RI. Please call RIDEM's Office of Technical & Customer Assistance at 401 222 6822 to schedule an appointment to review RIDEM's site files.

- Please note that in accordance with Rule 7.09 of the RIDEM Remediation Regulations, the legal purpose of public comment is to allow input on the “technical feasibility” of the proposed remedial alternative for Parcel B.

- Written comments addressing the technical feasibility of the proposed remedy may be submitted to: Gorham Site Environmental Comments, ATTN: Marcia Jennings, Providence Department of Planning and Development, 400 Westminster Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903 by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 18, 2005. No extensions of time for submission of such comment shall be granted except by Order of Judge Daniel Procaccini, Rhode Island Superior Court, 250 Benefit Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903.
Provisional Redevlopement Agency

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