



March 26, 2014

**NOTICE OF DRAINAGE CONSTRUCTION ON
BAY STATE ROAD, BIRCH STREET, FERN STREET, CORPORAL BURNS ROAD, AND FIELD STREET**

The City of Cambridge Department of Public Works (DPW) will be upgrading water, sewer and drain utilities on Bay State Road, Birch Street, Fern Street, Corporal Burns Road, and Field Street as part of the sewer separation project presently ongoing in the Concord Avenue Project Area (Contract 9). This letter is provided to inform you of environmental conditions identified in this area, and of actions that will be taken during construction to ensure public health and safety.

Three waste disposal sites located in the western portion of the project area have been listed by MassDEP based on elevated concentrations perchloroethylene (PCE), and trichloroethylene (TCE), both industrial cleaning solvents, and other products formed by natural degradation of PCE and TCE, in soil and groundwater. Two of the three waste disposal sites are located on Bay State Road and have been closed under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP). The third waste disposal site is associated with industrial operations conducted prior to 1986 by the Midland Ross Corporation, an electronics manufacturer, at its facility at 445 Concord Avenue. The highest concentrations are located on the northern half of Fern Street. Assessment and remediation activities have been ongoing under the MCP process by the current landowner.

The City's environmental consultant, Kleinfelder, conducted sampling and analysis in the project area Rights of Way to assess the presence of contamination for the purpose of construction. The investigations concluded that PCE and TCE contamination was present in Birch Street and Fern Street and may extend into Field Street. Kleinfelder did not identify PCE and TCE contamination on Bay State Road and Corporal Burns Road, but cannot rule out their presence.

The City's Contractor will perform the work and manage excavated soil and groundwater to meet MCP requirements for Utility Related Abatement Measures. During work that requires excavation in this area, the City's contractor, P. Gioioso & Sons, Inc., will be continuously monitoring air quality in and around the work site; if necessary, the contractor's workers will be wearing respirators when working in the trenches. Despite occasional odors that may emanate from the utility work site, short-term exposures from this utility work to these concentrations of solvents will not pose an exposure hazard to anyone living or working in the area, and this utility work will conform to very strict state environmental and public health standards. Please also note that these solvents are not flammable and no fire risk is posed. If elevated solvent concentrations or objectionable odors are identified outside the excavations, measures such as foaming or other odor and vapor control measures will be implemented. If necessary, work will be temporarily halted.

At the end of each workday all trenches will be backfilled or covered and plated to control vapors overnight. A Licensed Site Professional from Kleinfelder, or his or her representative, will also be on-site to ensure the work is being conducted in a manner that is protective of public health and the environment. Limited exploratory work in this area, as well as, gas main work on Corporal Burns Road, is expected to begin in April 2014 and sewer separation and water main utility work is expected to begin in fall 2014.

Please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Daly Woodbury, Project Manager (CWoodbury@cambridgema.gov, 617-349-4818) or Sam Lipson, Cambridge Public Health Department (slipson@challiance.org, 617-665-3838) if you would like to discuss any aspect of this project in greater detail or have concerns about odors or observations that may be associated with this utility work.

Sincerely,



Katherine Watkins, Acting City Engineer, Cambridge DPW