



May 18, 2015

NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION
BAY STATE ROAD, BIRCH STREET, FERN STREET AND FIELD STREET

The City of Cambridge Department of Public Works (DPW) provided notice to residents back in March 2014 of the start of construction activities in an area that is subject to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP). This area includes Bay State Road, Birch Street, Fern Street and Field Street. DPW's contractor, P. Gioioso & Sons is proceeding with construction of water, sewer and drain utilities in this area as part of ongoing Concord Avenue Project Area (Contract 9) sewer separation project. This letter is intended to remind and inform you of actions that are being taken during construction in this area to ensure public health and safety.

Historically, this area has been the location of three waste disposal sites listed by MassDEP, based on elevated concentrations of 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 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.

P. Gioioso & Sons will perform the work and manage excavated soil and groundwater to meet MCP requirements for Utility Related Abatement Measures. Shallow excavation work has already begun in this area and deeper excavation work is expected to begin in June. For the deeper excavations, the air quality in and around the work site will be continuously monitored.. For the northern part of Fern St, where the highest concentrations of contamination are anticipated, the contractor's workers will be wearing respirators and protective coverings 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.

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 this project in greater detail or have concerns about odors or observations that may be associated with this utility work.

Sincerely,



Katherine F. Watkins, P.E.

City Engineer