



## ***DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT***

***TOWN OF GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS***

*14 Court Square, Greenfield, MA 01301 413-772-1548 (Phone) 413-772-1309 (Fax)*

November 19, 2010

Mr. Arthur Johnson, Branch Chief  
Emergency Planning & Response  
US EPA Region 1, New England  
5 Post Office Square  
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Re: Former Besly-Bendix Property, 180 Laurel Street, Greenfield, MA (RTN: 1-0079)

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am writing to you to request assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the above referenced site in Greenfield. This property contains a large abandoned manufacturing building located in a residential neighborhood. This unrestricted property is bordered by residential properties and Interstate 91. The roof of the building has partially caved in and the building is currently filled with hundreds of wood pallets, containers of scrape legos and talcum powder. The asbestos piping has been exposed to the elements, and has degraded and fallen onto the pallets and other materials below. The property is now owned by the Town of Greenfield via a tax taking. However, the Town does not have the resources to eliminate the treat of fire, and of windblown friable asbestos.

The Town is extremely concerned about the potential exposure of the public to windblown and friable asbestos as well as a number of abandoned drums of hazardous materials. We are concerned about the potential for asbestos to be released to the surrounding residential neighborhood and Interstate 91. We believe that this situation would be exacerbated if a fire were to occur to carry the asbestos and other hazardous materials from the site. This property is not secure as it is only partially fenced and there is evidence of trespassing and the homeless living in the building. The Town has attempted to secure the building but these attempts have proved fruitless.

The Town has approached the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for assistance but due to fiscal and budgetary constraints, MassDEP does not have the resources to assist the Town in eliminating this potential imminent hazard. The Town is therefore requesting assistance from the US EPA to conduct a removal action at this site as soon as possible.

We would like to thank you very much for your efforts to date. If you need additional information or have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (413) 772-1549 or [EricT@greenfield-ma.gov](mailto:EricT@greenfield-ma.gov). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Twarog, AICP  
Director of Planning and Development

cc: **Tom Hatzopoulos, US EPA Region 1**  
Jim Byrne, US EPA Region 1  
Steve Novick, US EPA Region 1  
Greenfield Fire Department

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