



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

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November 18, 2010

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

Re: Greenfield
Former Besly-Bendix Property
180 Laurel Street
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 is a large abandoned manufacturing building located in a sensitive area. This unrestricted property is bordered by residential properties and Interstate 91. The roof has partially caved in and the building is currently filled with hundreds of wooden pallets. The asbestos piping has been exposed to the elements, and has degraded and fallen onto the pallets below. The property is owned, via a tax taking by the City, which does not have the resources to eliminate the threat of fire, and of windblown friable asbestos.

MassDEP remains concerned about the potential exposure of the public to windblown and friable asbestos and also a number of abandoned drums of hazardous materials. There is potential for asbestos to be released to the surrounding residential neighborhood and Interstate 91. This situation would be exacerbated if there was ever a fire to carry the asbestos and other hazardous materials from the site. Furthermore, the property is only partially fenced and there has been evidence of trespassing and the homeless living in the building.

Due to fiscal and budgetary constraints, MassDEP currently does not possess the resources to abate this potential imminent hazard in Greenfield. I therefore am requesting assistance from the USEPA to conduct a removal action at this site as soon as possible. MassDEP staff is willing and available to assist in this matter if you choose to proceed.

In addition, I would like to thank you for your efforts regarding the recent USEPA Removal Action at the Former Parson's Paper Mill in Holyoke. Without the help of the USEPA, this property would have remained a potential imminent hazard to the surrounding commercial and residential properties due to the presence of friable asbestos.