



Amesbury

Mayor C. Kenneth Gray

Office of the Mayor
City Hall, 62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913-2884

(978) 388-8121
Fax: (978) 388-6727
mayorgray@amesburyma.gov

March 22, 2016

Martin Suuberg
Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Commissioner Suuberg:

As Mayor of the City of Amesbury we continue to support the efforts of the MassDEP and the EPA regarding the cleanup of key sites throughout our community. In this regard we have met several times with MassDEP and EPA representatives to review the former Microfab facility located at 104 Haverhill Road.

The property owner went bankrupt in 1987 and abandoned the property after the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) cited the owner/operator for numerous environmental violations. The chemicals used by and released by Microfab are classified as hazardous substances under both state and federal laws. They include: organic compounds such as Trichloroethylene (TCE), a common degreaser used in the printed circuit board industry, and metals such as chromium, often used to plate onto other metals. Because Microfab operated in a negligent manner, waste from their facility entered the environment surrounding the building and property. Chemical contamination is present in the groundwater, soil, surface water and wetlands.

In response to the contamination in groundwater MassDEP installed and operated a groundwater pump & treat system. This system stopped groundwater from migrating offsite and pumped it through a treatment system to remove the contamination. This system went into service in 1991 and was taken off line in 2012 after removing thousands of pounds of contaminants. Recent analysis by the EPA confirmed the continued existence of contamination and the need for remediation.

We believe the best option for remediation rests with adding the area to the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites. It is our understanding that MassDEP has asked EPA for assistance with the cleanup of the site. The EPA has authority and resources beyond those of the City and our state for dealing with sites needing complex cleanups, such as Microfab.

We are respectfully requesting that the State offer their support for this designation for the following reasons:

- It is Massachusetts' DEP recommendation that this site be added to the NPL;

- As mentioned, the contaminants identified are known to present risks to public health and the environment;
- Prior landowners have abandoned the site;
- Superfund listing provides the best opportunity for a comprehensive cleanup;
- EPA soil investigation has prompted temporary measures until a comprehensive clean-up can be completed;
- Contamination continues to be an obstacle to economic redevelopment and reuse of the site.

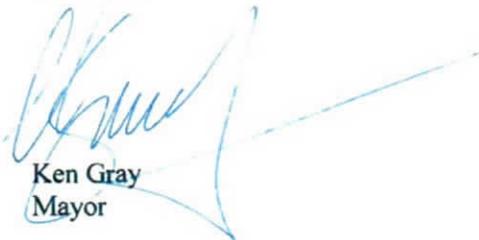
Before moving forward with support we took extensive steps to establish a clear indication of community wide support. My office requested a Workshop meeting by the City Council for which my office notified over 150 residents. At the meeting on February 23rd, representatives from the EPA, MassDEP and the City presented the status to date and the NPL- Superfund program. We established a web-page for the project which contains presentations, informational brochures and other materials to keep the public informed. <http://www.amesburyma.gov/mayors-office/pages/microfab-site-information>

The end result is represented by the attached materials: a Resolution of support by the City Council, a letter from key Department Heads for the City providing support, and a vote of the Chamber Board of Directors supporting the project.

We take the partnership we have enjoyed with the MassDEP and the EPA seriously and our efforts to engage the City elected officials and community are evidence of that stance. We will continue to seek additional resources and offer community support as the process evolves.

If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me through Evan Kenney, Chief of Staff.

Sincerely,



Ken Gray
Mayor



**CITY OF AMESBURY
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN**

SPONSORED BY: Mayor C. Kenneth Gray BILL No 2016-033

At the meeting of the Amesbury City Council held on March 8, 2016 in the City Hall Auditorium, the following action was taken:

Amesbury City Council Resolution to support the following steps by the City of Amesbury, Massachusetts as outlined below:

Summary, A Resolution to support the following:

The City of Amesbury has been plagued, for nearly 30 years, by the eyesore and contamination of the former Microfab site at 104 Haverhill Road. Multiple options have been considered by the City of Amesbury, and MassDEP, to further investigate and clean-up the site. A viable option has been offered by the EPA: to propose the Microfab site to the NPL (National Priorities List), to then clean-up the site through the Superfund program. The EPA requires a letter of support from the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts prior to adding a site to the NPL. It is the intent of this Resolution to provide the EPA with the support necessary toward achieving the status on the NPL to move forward with a clean-up. Further, this Resolution will serve as evidence of the City's support to seek future resources, such as grants, which would aid the City, MADEP, and EPA in their endeavor to clean-up and redevelop the Microfab site.

Be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Amesbury, assembled and by the authority of the same, considers this matter as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Amesbury respects and values the EPA and the thirty-five-year success of the Superfund program, which is responsible for cleaning up some of the nation's most contaminated land; and

WHEREAS, the City of Amesbury understands, the Superfund program focuses on making a visible and lasting difference in communities, ensuring that people can live and work in healthy, vibrant places; and

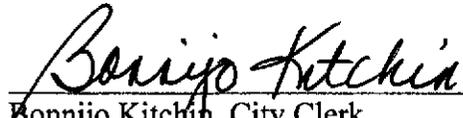
WHEREAS, the City of Amesbury understands that the EPA Superfund program is the most viable option to address the long overdue clean-up of the Microfab property, toward eliminating the abandoned eyesore, to protect the public health and safety, and to establish a viable site for redevelopment and economic expansion; and

WHEREAS, the City of Amesbury cannot move forward with a redevelopment strategy without a viable clean-up option; and

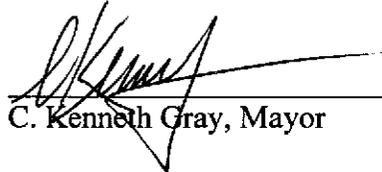
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City Council does hereby respectfully concur with the Mayor, and recommends to support the Superfund process to achieve remediation of the Microfab site by the Environmental Protection Agency. Further, that the City Council supports efforts by the City to seek additional grant resources, as may be available, which would achieve an environmentally safe and economically viable property.

Councilor Stanganelli moved to approve 2016-033 as presented. Councilor Sherwood seconded. Voted Unanimous (8 members present)

Witness my hand and seal for the City of Amesbury this 9th day of March, 2016

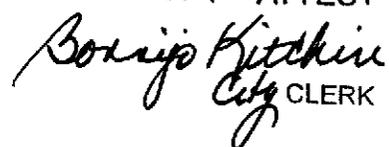


Bonnijo Kitchin, City Clerk



C. Kenneth Gray, Mayor

3/14/2016
Date

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

City CLERK



Amesbury

City Hall, 62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913-2884

March 2, 2016

Mayor Ken Gray
City of Amesbury
62 Friend Street
Amesbury MA 01913

Dear Mayor Gray:

Our City departments strongly endorse the approach by the Environmental Protection Agency to have the Former Microfab facility located at 104 Haverhill Road remediated by the EPA Region 1 Office of Site Remediation and Restoration through the Superfund Program. As we approach a 30 year milestone for the contaminated and abandoned property the use of EPA resources is clearly the most viable option for site cleanup. Although the property is not owned by the City, our departments continue to expend resources at the site since it was abandoned by the owners in 1987. As first responders and agents for the community, we have been burdened by this property in lieu of a responsible party to maintain the safety of the public. Examples of some of the issues include:

- Securing the property from trespass and responding to incidents when trespass occurs;
- Responding to vandalism and arson and prosecuting those individuals;
- Protecting the regions ecosystems and vital wetlands;
- Keeping the public informed and working with the state through MA DEP on issues of contamination at the site and migrating into the environment; and
- Material expenditures and deployment for temporary safety solutions such as plywood for securing windows, and fencing for perimeter control.
- In addition to the above very tangible costs there are the concerns of City employees who must respond to these incidents.

Your administrations goal of making Amesbury a healthier place to live and work is aligned with our own. We therefore support the EPA in their request to seek Superfund status toward achieving site remediation.

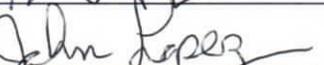
Sincerely,

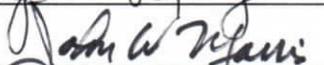

Amesbury Police Dept. Chief Kevin Ouellet


Amesbury Fire Dept. Chief Kenneth E. Berkenbush


Inspectional Services Dept. Building Inspector Denis Nadeau


Amesbury Dept. of Public Works Director Robert Desmarais


Conservation Commission Agent John Lopez


Regional Health Dept. Director Jack Morris



Mayor Ken Gray
City of Amesbury
City Hall
62 Friend Street
Amesbury Mass

March 8th, 2016

Dar Mayor Gray;

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Foundation, on February 25th, the City of Amesbury Community and Economic Development Director, William Scott, and the Energy and Environmental Manager for the City, Tom Barrasso, presented the plan to work with MA DEP and the EPA to clean up the Microfab site. The Board enthusiastically and unanimously voted to support the City's effort to work with the DEP and the EPA to bring the Microfab site to closure.

The Microfab site cleanup and redevelopment has been a high priority for Amesbury's business community since the 1980's. There has been a great deal of frustration and disappointment knowing that this blighted site has sat idle for 30 years creating no economic value to Amesbury and creating an enormous environmental problem. Because of the importance of this project the City is taking a proactive approach to transparency through a website page and email address for communication with the public.

We understand that community support is a crucial step in the EPA process to demonstrate that the community is in favor of moving forward with the cleanup. Therefore, the Chamber Board of Directors respectfully offers our support for the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Sherrill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Sherrill
President



Amesbury

Amesbury Conservation Commission
Office of Community and Economic Development
Tel: (978) 388-8110
Fax: (978) 388-6727

62 Friend Street
Second Floor
Amesbury, MA

February 22, 2016

The Honorable Kenneth Gray
Mayor of City of Amesbury
Amesbury City Hall
62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

Dear Mr. Mayor :

The Amesbury Conservation Commission strongly endorses the approach by you and the City of Amesbury to have the former Microfab property on Haverhill Road engaged by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 Office of Site Remediation and Restoration through the Superfund Program. It has been many years since the closure of this facility and we are eager to see movement in a direction that will help restore this property and our business district.

The development we have seen in Amesbury related to environmental cleanups leading to revitalization of areas of blight and contamination is a positive note for all those in our community. This is evident in the progress in the development of the Lower Millyard. This work is critical in enabling city officials to go forward with other development efforts giving developers the information and confidence that these parcels can be safely incorporated into projects to meet the needs of our residents. Your administrations goal of making Amesbury a healthier place to live and work is aligned with our own.

We welcome the opportunity to assist you and city officials with this process involving the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and EPA that it will allow federal support to be brought to bear at this abandoned and contaminated site that occupies a key location on Route 110 and in our community.

We look forward to supporting with you in this effort.

Regards,

Steve Langlois, Chair
Amesbury Conservation Commission