

Vermont Asbestos Group

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August 2, 2018

Dear Secretary Julie Moore:

Upon reading the article in "The Chronicle," dated 07/18/2018, it brought a couple of questions to mind.

The biggest concern is the settlement money is directed to fund projects off site, in particular, ones that could not be affected by further erosion from the site. The money is supposed to be shared 50/50 between the towns of Eden and Lowell.

The paragraph above alludes to further erosions from the site. This would make one wonder why the money would not be used, or escrowed, in an interest bearing account. This would allow for either on-going maintenance on the site, since V.A.G. has limited potential for raising enough money to keep up with ongoing maintenance issues, or to remediate in the event of a catastrophic failure of the on-site erosion control features.

It would almost seem that both towns would be better served, if this money was used for on-site remediation to help protect against any future off site migration of materials.

The article also referred to the existing buildings on the site. Some of this money could also be utilized to remediate the buildings and equipment so that it could be salvaged and sold for scrap, with the proceeds returning to the fund. The alternative is to let Mother Nature return these possible sources of income to the earth that I find hard to believe, will absorb this massive amount of steel and wood, with no environmental ramifications.

I am sure the towns can certainly envision critical projects that need to be addressed. However, it might make more economical and environmental sense, to crystal ball what might take place in the future, in the event of a major storm. At that point, should it happen, that money sitting in an escrow account would be pretty appetizing.


Not sure that it is pertinent to this discussion, but both towns enjoyed the benefit of many tax dollars and high employment with good paying jobs for many, many years. I am sure these huge tax benefits were put to good use by

the towns and they were able to enjoy, probably better than average, infrastructures as a result. Again, it would seem an escrow account would be the way to protect these past infrastructure projects into the future.

It certainly appears that is not a question of if, but when V.A.G. will not be able to fund the ongoing remediation at the site. At that time, money is going to have to come from some source to accommodate those needs.

As V.A.G. was not invited or included in the settlement with GI holdings, I would respectfully request that all correspondence related to this settlement be forwarded before a final decision on disbursement is made. Also, would request that Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Waste Management and Preventive Division schedule a meeting at the Governor's Office for all affected parties.

Thank you for your consideration.


Howard Manosh, President
Vermont Asbestos Group

CC: Eden Select Board
Lowell Select Board
Governor Philip Scott
Senator Bobby Starr
Rep. Mark Higley
David Gordon
John Schmeitzer