

W. R. Grace to hold FINAL Meeting on Asbestos Contamination

Grace Quits Clean up though Pounds of Asbestos Still in Soil!

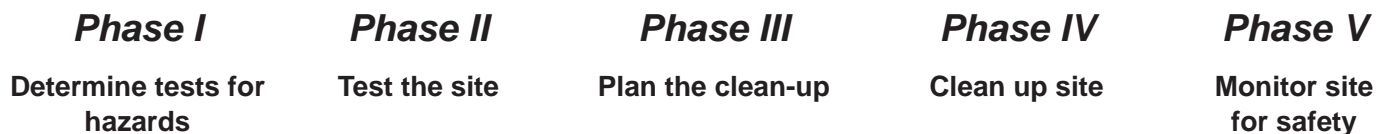
The W. R. Grace site next to Russell Field has an estimated six pounds of loose fiber asbestos for every man, woman and child in all of Cambridge, according to tests conducted jointly by W. R. Grace, Cambridge and neighbors.

That 650,000 to 1.2 million pounds of asbestos poses little threat if left in the soil as it is now. But the property owners will likely develop the 27-acre site. Construction disturbs soil. Without long-term protective measures in place, construction could release asbestos into the air, allowing fibers to blow all over the neighborhood. Though W. R. Grace has not cleaned up the asbestos, they want to end state oversight, leaving neighbors vulnerable.

Grace has
quit here



Where they
need to finish



Attend W. R. Grace's FINAL meeting

7:00 pm, Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004

W. R. Grace cafeteria, 62 Whittemore Avenue

Tell W. R. Grace we'll work with them, if they protect us.

1. We must have long-term protection from their asbestos fibers.
2. We want to work WITH the property owner on future development. We request continued community involvement throughout planning, construction and development of the W. R. Grace site.
3. We request the property owner stipulate State oversight during every period of construction.
4. We request that property owner and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) adhere to Cambridge's Asbestos Protection Ordinance.
5. We request that Grace correctly document the source and quantity of asbestos in all relevant documents, making those documents available to the public.

Ask the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to continue monitoring the site until W. R. Grace erects a permanent barrier between people and asbestos. Our neighbors, our children, depend on you to advocate for a healthy future. Let's ensure that W. R. Grace, or any future developer, follows safe practices. Let's ensure DEP does not abandon us.

PROTECTING KIDS FROM ASBESTOS

Asbestos has been shown to cause cancer even in small amounts.

No safe level has been found. One type of cancer, mesothelioma, is incurable.

Asbestos is durable.

It does not break down in soil. Asbestos once airborne can enter the lungs. Construction can send asbestos dust into the air.

Asbestos fibers are invisible.

If soil is disturbed and fibers released, we wouldn't see the fibers.

The body cannot break down asbestos once it lodges in the lungs,

meaning the effects continue years after inhalation.

What the Environmental Protection Agency says:

“The younger people are when they inhale asbestos, the more likely they are to develop mesothelioma. This is why enormous efforts are being made to prevent school children from being exposed.”

What the Department of Environmental Protection says:

“If construction occurs, the lifetime risk estimate is 20 times DEP limit.”

The Cambridge Asbestos Protection Ordinance (CAPO)

In 1999, Alewife Study Group wrote and spearheaded passage of CAPO, which protects neighbors from exposure to asbestos in soil. City Council passed the ordinance unanimously, but it may be changed in the future.

To Protect Our Children:

1. Attend the Meeting on December 16
2. Demand W. R. Grace institute long-term protective measures
3. Request continued state oversight
4. Support the Cambridge Asbestos Protection Ordinance
5. Volunteer for Alewife Study Group, phone or email neighbor Lisa Birk, cellardr@aol.com, 617.354.3295. If you have ten minutes, if you have half-an hour, if you have two hours, we can use your help.

**See you at W. R. Grace
7:00 pm
Thursday, December 16!**

November 27, 2004
THE BOSTON GLOBE
W.R. Grace may be indicted
W.R. Grace & Co., which filed for bankruptcy in 2001 amid thousands of asbestos-related claims, said it may be indicted in a probe of environmental violations and obstruction of government proceedings at a Montana mine. “The government is asserting that it has substantial evidence linking the company to the commission of a crime,” Columbia, Md.-based W.R. Grace said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The company “is likely to be indicted during the first quarter of 2005.” Several current and former senior-level employees at a Libby, Mont., mine have been named as targets of the grand jury probe, the company said. From 1963 to 1990, the mine extracted and processed vermiculite that contained asbestos, which can cause cancer and respiratory ailments. (Bloomberg)