



Governor Charlie Baker
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

December 19, 2019

Dear Governor Baker:

Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility (GBPSR) is a non-profit organization of physicians, health professionals and public health experts with around 1400 members. Our members are nationally-recognized experts in public health, cancer epidemiology, occupational medicine, environmental health, emergency medicine, disaster preparedness, and the health effects of climate change. We are writing to express our concern, in the strongest possible terms, that Enbridge's current construction activity at the Lovell's Grove/Ferry Point area of Weymouth poses an immediate threat to the health of its workers and to neighboring residents.

The Lovell's Grove/Ferry Point area is a longstanding industrial site, and the land itself is comprised of accumulated industrial waste, including coal ash. Coal ash is hazardous to human health and contains heavy metals, like arsenic, mercury, and cadmium. Enbridge's own measurements have identified that the soil at the site is highly contaminated with dangerous levels of four heavy metals:

- Arsenic 228 mg/kg
- Cadmium 2.9 mg/kg
- Lead 43.2 mg/kg
- Mercury 0.4 mg/kg.

In particular, the concentration of arsenic at the site is over ten times higher than the “S-2” concentration defined by the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.00), indicating that action is mandated to protect the public welfare.

These heavy metals are potent human toxins, even at extremely low levels of exposure, and cause illnesses including cancer, heart disease, infertility and nervous system damage. Many other human toxins, including asbestos and petroleum byproducts, are certain to also exist at the site and were not measured as part of the environmental assessment.

Enbridge is not protecting its employees from inhalational or contact exposure to the contaminated soil at the Weymouth site. Construction workers at the site have repeatedly been observed to be working without appropriate protective equipment – which should include, at a minimum, respirators and hazmat suits. (Please see pictures below.) Furthermore, soil is being transported in vehicles to and from the site without appropriate draping or decontamination measures; this places individuals outside the immediate construction site at risk of exposure to toxins in the contaminated soil.

As physicians and public health professionals, we are gravely concerned for the health and safety of these workers, and we urge you to take immediate action to protect them by ordering a halt to construction activity until an appropriate review by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration can be performed.

Sincerely,



Matt Bivens, MD
GBPSR Board Chair

Board Members

John Belge, BSEE
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Thomas P. Koch, Mayor of Quincy
Joseph C. Sullivan, Mayor of Braintree
Patrick M. O'Connor, Senator Plymouth and Norfolk
Ronald Mariano, Representative 3rd Norfolk
James M. Murphy, Representative 4th Norfolk
Gerard Martin, Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Jana Ferguson, Director at Bureau of Environmental Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Stephen F. Lynch, Congressman 8th District of Massachusetts
Joe Kennedy, III, Congressman 4th District of Massachusetts
Elizabeth Warren, Senator of Massachusetts
Ed Markey, Senator of Massachusetts
James Doherty, TRC Companies, Inc.
John Sheridan, Enbridge, Inc.

Photos from Weymouth Compressor Construction Site, December 14, 2019

