



TOWN OF GRAFTON

Dear Governor Scott,

January 14, 2020

Enclosed is an article from the VT Digger on line, which can be found at <https://vtdigger.org/2020/01/12/matrixchem-now-under-investigation-operated-without-oversight/>

Please read this article. As you read the article it would seem, until this last section, this company was under the radar because no one in any state agency knew.

That was not the case. As set forth in the last section of the article in the box below, you, Governor Scott were informed by us in 2018.

No Act 250 permit

This December was not the first-time state officials were alerted to potential safety and environmental violations at 3992 Saxtons River Road.

Environmental concerns were highlighted during debate over a proposed solar project at the site when Grafton officials told state officials in 2018 that Act 250 violations were ongoing. They complained about junk cars and other garbage at the site. The Selectboard requested that the contaminated parts of the site either be cleaned up before the solar array is built or be avoided entirely.

In a letter to the Public Utilities Commission, the Grafton Selectboard demanded commissioners halt review of the solar project until “all regulatory and statutory violations” at the site are addressed. The governor’s office, Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore, Act 250 District 2 Coordinator Stephanie Giles, local lawmakers and other state officials were copied on both letters.

“It is ironic that the applicant and landowner asked us, and we agreed, to host a site that ultimately enhances the environment, while the owner trashes the very site that is host to it,” wrote the Selectboard. “Grafton hopes the State does not wish to be a party to this trashing of Grafton.”

The Selectboard spells out a range of activities going on at the site, including MatrixChem’s chemical purification, a stone cutting business, and the various cars, trash, construction debris stored outside in the Saxtons River floodway, that were, to the best of their knowledge, not permitted by Act 250.

There are pages of site photos attached to the letter, all of which have the same three sentence caption.

“There is no known permit for the chemical mixing use inside the building in the area that was the source of hazardous waste leaks years ago and the reason this is an EPA Brownfields site,” reads the last line of the caption.

Not only you, but your Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources, the Act 250 District 2 Coordinator, etc. as stated in the article and in our filings with the PUC. In addition I have correspondence with the attorney from the Environmental Board on the lack of permits and state supervision on the ongoing activities at this site. I also asked at DFS, do not remember who, if there were permits for the businesses at this site. There was one for nanotubes and that was it. There was no promise that anyone from DFS would come out, though that was requested. Representatives Trieber and Partridge were informed.

No one ever showed up. No one did anything.

Now the DFS, VOSHA., ANR Enforcement, HazMat Response Tier II all know, once again. Read the DFS inspection report, which was shared with all those agencies. This time they did show up and look. They "are doing all they are permitted by law to do." Meanwhile, the chemicals sit here in Grafton unsecured.

The Town of Grafton wants this taken care of immediately. Whatever bureaucratic procedural shackles your agencies are hampered with must be removed by you or by order of the court.


The imminent potential danger needs to be mitigated now. There must be no "moving the barrels out of the building ... into a U-Haul" and taken to another undisclosed location. Authorities must immediately impound the dangerous substances in place and then oversee the proper removal and disposal of all the dangerous materials immediately and properly and the scrub down of the place completely and the site inspected and cleared of all contaminants so that the Town and its citizens are not strapped with the enormous cost of EPA compliance or a lingering Brownfield site.

Respectfully,

Selectboard of the Town of Grafton



Joseph Polito, Jr. Chair



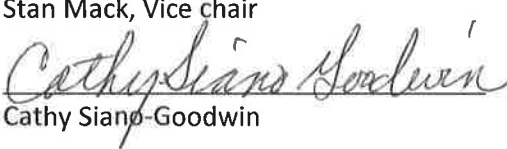
Allan Sands



Chris Wallace



Stan Mack, Vice chair



Cathy Siano-Goodwin

Cc: All the agencies, officials, legislators and persons in the State to whom the initial 2018 letter was sent.

Also sent by email in order to hasten, if possible, potential State response and action.