

February 7, 2005

Ron Reed, Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Town of Ashburnham  
32 Main Street, Ashburnham, MA 01430

Dear Mr. Reed.

I recently reviewed the records at the Department of Environmental Protections (DEP) last week and I was disturbed over the following information I uncovered:

- I did not see any follow up testing from monitoring wells #15 and #16 which appear to be located directly in front of the gasoline pumps. The last tests on record showed extremely high levels in the drinking water tests:
    - 6-17-04 (MW#16).....**16,600 PPB MTBE**.....70 PPB is the Massachusetts guideline
    - 6-17-04 (MW#16).....**9 PPB Benzene**..... 5 PPB is the MA guideline for this **carcinogen**
    - 6-17-04 (MW#16).....4,500 PPB C5-C8 Aliphatics.....400 PPB is the Massachusetts guideline
    - 6-17-04 (MW#15).....650 PPB MTBE.....70 PPB is the Massachusetts guideline
- And in the soil: 6-3-04 (MW#16).....740 PPB MTBE.....300 PPB is the Massachusetts guideline

*With such extreme readings, isn't additional testing ordered to see if these levels continue to escalate?*

- On 4-19-04, Handex deemed the Boutwell site as an **IMMINENT HAZARD**. In their letter to DEP:  
*"Based on the recent detection of petroleum hydrocarbon constituents in private drinking water wells and indoor air at the disposal site and at certain residential properties in the vicinity of the site, a Critical Exposure Pathway (CEP) and Condition of SRM (Substantial Release Migration) are present at the disposal site. As such, the Imminent Hazard evaluation of human health for potential indoor air and drinking water exposure to compounds of concern for Boutwell's Garage and the Testa residence is presented herein."*

*"....ELCR (Excess Lifetime Cancer Risks) for actual exposure to indoor air at the Boutwell's apartment and at the Testa residence is above the imminent Hazard level. Conclusions: An Imminent Hazard is present at the Testa residence and Boutwell's Garage because the ELCR is greater than  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  at both locations."*

Handex was the consulting engineer hired on behalf of Mr. Richard Boutwell of Boutwell's Garage and Peterborough Oil Company of Leominster, MA on 8-12-98. **EIGHT DAYS** after the IH (Imminent Hazard) report, as of 4-27-04, Handex was no longer the Licensed Site Professional (LSP) of record for the site.

- According to IRA Status Report #13 by Ducharme & Wheeler, Inc., (the new consulting engineers):  
*"Mr. and Mrs. Boutwell were granted a temporary permit from the **Town of Ashburnham Fire Department** for keeping the on-site underground storage tanks in place through August 30, 2006"*

Many Fitchburg Road residents have been impacted by this unhealthy situation:

- Lashua Residence 79 Fitchburg Road since 5-12-98
- Testa Residence 76 Fitchburg Road since 5-12-98
- Adams Residence 57 Fitchburg Road since 1-16-03
- Cormier Residence 62 Fitchburg Road since 2-4-04
- Dupuis Residence 46 Fitchburg Road since 2-5-04
- **Another new release of MTBE has occurred** at the Baril residence, 93 Fitchburg Road tested on 12-22-04.

In closing, I have 4 requests:

- **REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA** - I again request to be on the agenda so I and other impacted residents can meet with the selectmen at your next scheduled meeting to discuss these issues, as I had previously requested on 12-30-04 when I was told by you that you had no new information so you would not put us on.
- **REQUEST AN ORDER FOR IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF THE TANKS** - I believe the gas station has been closed for 6 months at the end of February. According the Underground Storage Tanks (UST) regulations 527 CMR 9.00, abandoned means out of service for a continuous period in excess of 6 months. Section 9.07 (J)(2) states "Any owner of a tank who has decided to abandon it ...shall have the...tank removed from the ground."
- **REQUEST SELECTMEN TO ORDER ALL TOWN BOARDS TO ENFORCE TOWN BY-LAWS**. Chapter XI Section 14 states: "No person shall place, deposit or cause to flow in any well, stream, pond, lake or any other body of water in the town, any glass, metal or any article, material or substance, or liquid, liable to cause injury or pollute the same in any manner."
- **REQUEST SELECTMEN TO RESPOND IN WRITING** - I believe the town by-laws include protecting the health, safety, public welfare, and the environment. As per public records laws and freedom of information act, please inform me in writing what steps you intend to take to resolve these issues and **WHEN**.

Terri Adams