

12c. 8/11/97,

# Shell U.K. Limited

Legal Division



Shell/Mex House  
Strand  
London WC2R 0DX

**DX 473** London

**Telephone** 0171 257 3883

**Facsimile** 0171 257 3441

**Switchboard** 0171 257 3000

our ref UKLG/11/7594F

your ref

7 November 1997

Mrs Fox  
337 Wokingham Road  
Earley  
READING  
RG6 7EB

Dear Mrs Fox

## RE: READING TERMINAL

Thank you for your letter of 27 October. From the information I have, I believe that the incident to which you refer occurred in the mid-eighties as a result of a rail fuel truck having an open man-lid when it arrived on site from the rail network. Fuel slopped from this onto an overheated brake, causing ignition. The train was carrying petrol and diesel and because of the fire the product was incinerated rather than lost in the ground.

We are not aware of a manhole cover being blown off as you mention, possibly this was a reference to the man-lid I have referred to.

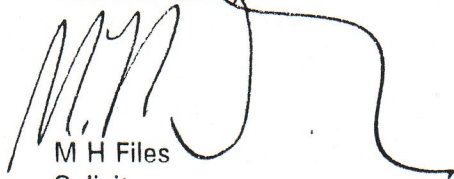
The small tank to which you refer would have been used for the storage of petrol additives. Over the years these additives have comprised constituents found in the products stored on the site, save that in recent years potassium has been added to petrol.

We tested for all of the products which we stored at the site. There was no reason to test for other substances.

The contents of the drain were analysed before and after cleaning to ensure that we complied with Thames Water discharge limits, which we did. If you wish we can provide this information to you.

I feel the Company has provided you with the detail that you have requested. We have also, as you are aware, tested your garden and provided you and your Consultants with the results of those tests. We also, of course, met your Consultants' fees in connection with the matter. Nothing indicated that we had contaminated your garden. Whilst I am very sorry to hear of your husband's ill health this has nothing to do with our activities and I do not feel a meeting with Shell would help you to resolve this matter. I look forward to receiving the medical reports.

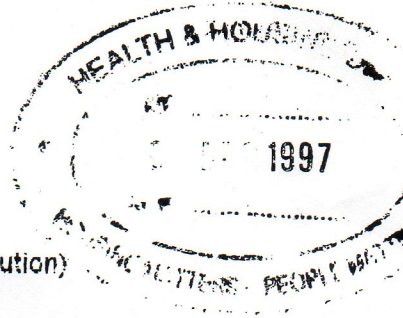
Yours sincerely



M H Files  
Solicitor



**Shell U.K. Limited**  
Legal Division



C Bradfield Esq  
Acting Team Manager (Housing and Pollution)  
Wokingham District Council  
Civic Offices  
Shute End  
WOKINGHAM  
Berks RG40 1WN

Shell-Max House  
Strand  
London WC2R 0DX  
DX #73 London  
Telephone 0171-257 3883  
Facsimile 0171-257 3441  
Switchboard 0171-257 3000

our ref UKLG/11  
your ref

5 December 1997

BY FAX: 0118 977 8867

Dear Sir

**READING TERMINAL WOKINGHAM ROAD EARLEY READING**

Thank you for your fax of 5 December.

I hope to have spoken to you by the time this fax reaches you as I have not received the letter of 4 December to which you refer.

I have the majority of the information to deal with your letter of 20 November which was in fact received on 24 November. In answer to your questions set out in that letter I would say:

1. The additives would have been Formula Shell. I am endeavouring to obtain the additional information concerning the chemical name and other details that you have requested.
2. In my letter to you of 7 November I advised you of the oil products stored on the site. We do not have records of other materials save that we would be aware that there would be cleaning materials for vehicles, vehicle anti-freeze and lubricants for vehicles on the site.
3. We do not have any records relating to the fire. We have, however, gathered information from retired staff. The fire occurred in 1986. We are given to understand that there was a fire in a rail fuel truck which occurred when it arrived on site from the adjacent rail network. Fuel had slopped from an open man lid on the wagon. This went on to an overheated brake causing ignition. I understand that the wagons in the fire contained petrol and diesel.
4. I am advised that the site was investigated and remediated before risk based corrective action assessments and that remediation was based on target contamination levels that were the norm in 1992/1993.

We are gathering the information requested in your fax of today's date.

We carried out a soil investigation in the garden of Mr Fox at 337 Wokingham Road and the results were sent to him and he should be able to make these available to you.

Yours faithfully,

  
M H Files  
Solicitor

(27)

PS We have spoken.



Mr Wiseman  
Solicitor Shell UK Ltd

Mr Raymond Fox  
337 Wokingham Rd  
Earley  
Reading  
Berks  
25/2/1998

Dear Mr Wiseman

Following the press article of this week the follow up story has now been completed and given your company's reaction I am taking the time to let you know the content of the follow up article and would welcome your comments on it with regard to any of the material that Shell UK Ltd may believe is fair comment.

Follow up article content

1) With regard to the chemical fire ( confirmed by your Mr Files letter of 7/11/1997 ref:-- UKLG/11/594F) the subject of the follow up article is the production of large quantities of those highly documented mutagenic and carcinogenic compounds DIOXINS and PAHs which were an inevitable consequence of this type of fire.

2) The question of why no action was taken to inform local residents of the possible horrendous medical problems that could result from contact contamination from these compounds that are a proven cause of cancer and genetic abnormalities such as babies being born with limbs or organs missing. These effects are extremely well documented world wide and reference to the literature and reports of the US government's Environmental Protection Agency, the US Department of Health, US Toxic Substances Registry and the World Health Organisation's long term study of Sevesco will all confirm this.

3) With reference to your consultants Fairhurst's report post remediation April 1994, PAH contamination was confirmed in the area of the fire and in other parts of the your former Earley site. The article will ask why having confirmed the presence of PAHs no information or warning was given to local residents and why no specific health checks or health monitoring were put in place and why all the party's ie;-- Shell UK and any operating partner at the time on this site, Berkshire AHA, The Environment Agency, Thames Water, Wokingham District Council and The Health and Safety Executive failed to take even cursory measures to protect local residents.

4) Why during the 1993 cleanup and after the discovery of the PAH contamination on this site ( Fairhurst April 1994 mainly areas 4b,4a and 1b in their site map) was it found to be necessary to instal a drainage trench running from areas 4a and 4b along the Eastern boundary into the interceptor very adjacent to my property. The issue to be raised is whether this trench was installed to drain a site that for thousands of years and throughout it's working life was free draining and did not require this trench or was it to carry the PAHs away in solution.

The reason for the inclusion of this matter is the fact that in the report by Claytons, on contamination in the surface water drain manhole on my property, and as you are fully aware of the contents of the report, it states in that report " the level of total PAHs is above background levels" I can find no logical reason for this level of PAHs in a **surface water drain** on my property and given the fact that in my medical report one of the substances found is dioxin the



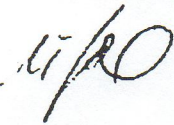
method of entry into the rainwater drain is a very relevant issue.

5) The question of why, given that the PAH contamination recorded in the Fairhurst report of April 1994, not one single test was taken by CET in September 1996 in area 4b and this is confirmed in their report that was submitted to WDC with Persimmon's planning application for your former Earley The fact that the PAH contamination was known and recorded at WDC raises the question as to how planning consent for housing on this site could possibly have been granted. It is my opinion that the manner in which planning consent was granted and other associated matters regarding this planning application should be the subject of examination and to this end I should point out that it is my intention to apply to the High Court for a judicial review of the decision to grant planning consent for housing on this site and the actions of individuals associated with it.

I would appreciate your co-operation in this matter by informing me of any parts of this follow up article that you feel is not a true reflection of the facts. All of the factual information that the questions to be raised in this article have been taken from signed correspondence and signed documents that are a matter of public record and are all attributable to their signatories so please Mr Wiseman do not attempt to frighten me by using words such as libellous again.

Hopeful of your courtesy in this matter

Yours sincerely



Raymond Fox.

No cc of this letter as it is confidential to author and addressee's employers.

# Shell U.K. Limited

Legal Division



Mr R Fox  
337 Wokingham Road  
Earley  
Reading  
Berks RG6 7EB

Shell-Mex House  
Strand  
London WC2R 0DX  
DX 473 London

Telephone 0171-257 3482  
Facsimile 0171-257 3441  
Switchboard 0171-257 3000

our ref UKLG/11/7594  
your ref

11 March 1998

Dear Mr Fox

## READING TERMINAL

I am responding to your letter addressed to Mr Wiseman who is not in the office today.

As explained in our letter of 6 February, the Company's site at Reading is now owned by Persimmon Homes and Shell no longer has any interest in the land. In the light of the second paragraph of your letter, I have passed a copy of it to Persimmon Homes who are the new owners and would be the persons concerned.

I do feel that our earlier letter and my subsequent telephone conversations with you answered the questions you raised in relation to the drain and the right to use it.

Yours sincerely

  
M H Files  
Solicitor