

June 25, 2009

Dear Editor,

I have received numerous communications from concerned Upton citizens regarding a strong odor being emitted from utility poles stored on Maple Avenue. Since being notified, I have been in constant contact with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DEP has been working with the town boards and the Department of Public Health (DPH) since the smell was first identified.

I coordinated a meeting held on June 17 attended by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, the Chairman of the Board of Health, three representatives of the DEP, a DPH representative, a citizen representative, my aid and myself.

The meeting was an opportunity for all involved to voice their concerns, explain their position and ask important questions. The DPH was able to confirm that the fumes are a short term respiratory irritant. They cannot, at this time, attest to any specific long term health effects. The group discussed the current status of the site. Pursuant to discussions, as of June 18 some of the poles have been moved to a different location on site further away from residences and all will be moved to this location in the near future. The effectiveness of this measure is being closely evaluated.

Upton residents should contact their local and state officials if they experience further discomfort. I will continue to be accessible to the citizens of Upton, and I will work to ensure a swift resolution.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Moore, State Senator
Second Worcester District