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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

August 1, 2002

P.D. Merrill
601 Danforth St.
Portland, ME 04102

Re: Building Permit#020739/58,292 sq. ft. membrane structure

Dear Mr. Merrill,

The above referenced permit has been reviewed and is issued subject to conditions. The following is our understanding of the relevant facts:

- 1) The City has adopted the 1999 BOCA code as amended.
- 2) Section 3103 of the Code defines and sets forth regulations for the erection of membrane structures.
- 3) For the purposes of this application, this structure is defined as permanent membrane covered frame structure, Type 2C construction.
- 4) The design professional has indicated that this structure is to be designated as an unlimited area building, subject to the standards of Section 507.0 of the Code.
- 5) The proposal is to store densely packed, rolled newsprint in the structure.
- 6) The proposal does not contemplate an NFPA 13 Fire suppression system.
- 7) The Proposal contemplates four fire suppression hoses, one in each corner of the structure, to remain accessible at all times.
- 8) The applicant has requested a waiver from fire suppression and fire separation distance standards.

Based on the information provided and interviews with Lt. Gaylen McDougall, and Chief Fred Lamontange, Portland Fire Department, this office finds the following:

- 1) The material is packed at a density that makes combustion improbable under normal conditions.
- 2) Section 507.1, exemption 1 of the Building Code provides for the erection of "Special Industrial the system would be detrimental to the specific occupancy, as approved by the Code Official.
- 3) "Special Industrial Occupancies" as contemplated by the above exemption are limited to S2 and F2 uses.
- 4) If stored in compliance with NFPA regulations, this office will classify this specific and limited us as an S2 use.

This office will allow the construction as requested with the following conditions.

- 1) The rolls of newsprint will be stored in compliance with NFPA regulations. Any variation from this arrangement must be approved in writing from this office.
- 2) No other combustible product may be stored in this building, as it would then be considered an S1 Use Group as defined in table 311.2 and subject to all of the provisions of Section 507. including Fire suppression and Fire separation protection.
- 3) If the Easterly abutter develops the parcel in a manner that places a structure closer than 30 feet to the membrane structure, the membrane structure will be retrofitted with materials having a fire resistance rating consistent with Section 507.2 of the Building Code

Please feel free to contact me at 874-8700 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mike Nugent
Manager of Inspections Services