



Gale Associates, Inc.

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July 19, 2023

Manchester-Essex Regional School District  
36 Lincoln Street  
Manchester, MA 01944

Attn: Mr. Avi Urbas, Director of Finance & Operations  
E: [urbasa@mersd.org](mailto:urbasa@mersd.org)

Re: Hyland and Brook Street Fields Turf Replacement  
Project Delay  
Gale JN 718780

Dear Mr. Urbas:

Gale Associates, Inc. (Gale) is of the opinion that the delay in the start of construction of the turf replacements at Hyland and Brook Street fields was due to Sprinturf's insufficient review of the bid documents and the specified PFAS testing requirements. The bid documents clearly state the PFAS testing requirements in Technical Section 32 18 23 – Synthetic Field Surfacing, under Item 1.6 I., and it is also noted in the approved RDA Permit with related conditions provided. The PFAS testing requirements were also reviewed at both the Pre-Bid Meeting and the Pre-Construction Meeting conducted on May 8, 2023.

As MERSD is aware, Gale sent numerous follow-up emails regarding the status of PFAS testing and it was not until a call with Sprinturf, on June 15, 2023, that they acknowledged the PFAS testing requirements. At that time, it was our understanding that Sprinturf expedited the PFAS testing for the turf, and also attempted to conduct testing on the shock pad and infill, but experienced delays due to shipping container requirements (per their email of July 17, 2023). It should be noted that the project was bid on January 18, 2023, with bids received on February 2, 2023. The notice to award was issued on March 30, 2023, and Gale expedited the turf submittal review on April 24, 2023.

Options moving forward include waiting for the PFAS testing on all of the turf components (turf, infill, shock pad) prior to start of construction, or approaching the Conservation Commission to request them to consider allowing construction to start on Hyland Field, as we have non-detected results for PFAS in hand for the turf and the shock pad results are anticipated to be received by August 7, 2023. The next Conservation Commission hearings are scheduled for August 1, 2023 and August 22, 2023.

Finally, should MERSD need to rent field space elsewhere due to a delay in field completion, MERSD can consider assessing liquidated damages to Sprinturf to pay for related costs.

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Gale would also like to note that this summer has been extremely busy for the turf industry overall and, unfortunately, we have seen turf production and installation delays on other projects unrelated to PFAS testing.

Respectfully submitted,

GALE ASSOCIATES, INC.

*Kathleen D. Hervol/cmh*

Kathleen D. Hervol  
Director of Athletic Planning & Design

CC: Jason Waldron – MERSD – waldronj@mersd.org

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