



SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

August 7, 2014

Mr. Leonard Anderson
559 South McKnight Road
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Re: Response to notice from the City of Saint Paul for the South McKnight Road residence.

Dear Mr. Anderson,

At your request we reviewed the condition of several elements of the construction at your residence. On August 6, 2014 we made the following observations:

Roof

Contrary to the Notice, we found only a small portion of the south edge of the gable roof which needs repair and a section of the gable where the asphalt shingles are curling. We understand that this area is the subject of an insurance claim for damage, and that you intend to replace the few sections of sheathing once the claim is settled. It is our opinion that the curled shingles have not lead to any water infiltration yet except for a small section currently covered by a tarp, and the condition is not critical and could also be delayed until the insurance claim is settled.

Chimney

Contrary to the Notice, we find the non-sequitur reference to defective brick false and misleading.

The unique chimneys at the residence are heavy gauge steel pipe; they appear to be former advertising sign supports. Such pipe is designed to handle a massive bending moment when high winds strike the large flat surface of the signs they support. We found only minor pitting of the surface at some isolated sections of peeling paint. As such, the steel pipes have more than enough wall thickness to remain in service as a chimney.

One of the chimneys needs maintenance to the metal flashing at the roof.

Eaves/Soffits

We found a minor area of fascia board which should be reattached at the east eave of the north garage, and a very small section of soffit board which should be reattached at the southwest corner of the garage.

Exterior Walls/Trim Coatings

The cedar plank siding at the residence may have had a stain applied sometime in the past, but contrary to the Notice, we found no defective paint. It is not unusual to allow cedar siding to weather naturally, especially in a heavily wooded lot. Similarly, the portions of the residence which have steel siding are not meant to be painted. There is also a section of Masonite siding; but we find no repairs to any of the coatings warranted.



Guardrails

We found a single baluster which had reportedly been damaged by a raccoon; Mr. Anderson was in the process of completing the installation of a new baluster while we were on site.

Exterior Siding

We found no wood decay or water damage to either the cedar or Masonite siding; the few areas damaged at outside corners appeared to be the result of animals chewing/clawing to make access.

If you have questions regarding this correspondence please contact us at 651-603-6613.

Sincerely,

American Engineering Testing, Inc.

William E. Bloemendal, PE

Minnesota Registration # 19124