

## Omya Community Issue Team – Quarry Issues

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### December 5, 2007 Meeting Summary

**Location:** Maclure Library, Pittsford, VT

**Date:** December 5, 2007

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

#### **Meeting Attendees** (in alphabetical order):

Pat Church - Florence resident  
Andy McIntosh– Omya employee  
Bev Peterson - Florence resident  
Bob Steibly – Omya employee

#### *Absent:*

Greg Boudah – Florence resident  
Shawn Good – Florence resident  
John Lapre – Florence resident and local business owner  
Amy Loomis – Town of Pittsford Zoning Administrator  
Fred McAtee – Florence resident

*Note taking:* Mary-Kaye Macaulay – Omya  
Dave Thayer – CLF Ventures

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Issue Team co-facilitators Bob Steibly (Technical Manager) and Andy McIntosh (Geologist) welcomed the Team and introductions were made. Contact information was handed out and taken from Team Members.

### **II. Issue Team Overview**

Bob and Andy provided an overview of the mission of the Plant Issue Team and their proposed expectations for the team. They then provided an overview of Team goals and structural issues.

#### Team Goals:

- Continue our efforts towards being a better neighbor
- Keep the community informed
- Receive feedback from the community
- Work together to resolve issues

#### Roles and Structure:

- Omya staff
  - Listen to all issues
  - Organize the meetings and develop the agenda (with input)

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- Provide information (or personnel) to address agenda items
- Community members
  - Identify issues and provide information about community concerns for the team to consider
  - Share creative ideas for solving problems
  - Make a commitment to attend meetings
  - No expectation of work outside of meetings (unless volunteered)
- Decision-making
  - The Issue Team is advisory to Omya. However, the goal is collaborative work toward mutually recognized priority issues.
- Duration
  - Team agreed that an ongoing schedule would be the best way to operate over time.
- Frequency
  - The Team decided to try to meet every two or three months and make adjustments as needed.
- Communication
  - Notes of each meeting will be posted to [www.omyainvermont.net](http://www.omyainvermont.net) once approved by the team.
- Guests
  - It was agreed that guests at future meetings should be cleared by the whole team before attending.
- Three Issue Teams are now launched
  - Trucks and Transportation
  - Verpol Plant operations
  - Hogback Quarry operations

Quarry members agreed that these were acceptable practices for Team management.

### **III. Overview of Hogback Quarry operations**

Andy provided a pictorial slide presentation of the Hogback Quarry starting with a description of the location of various active and recently active quarries along the marble belt of the Shelburne Formation. The Shelburne Formation runs the length of the State, and Vermont has a long quarrying history in this deposit. There are several hundred old quarry holes throughout this and adjacent marble belts within Vermont. The Hogback Quarry is located where four old quarry holes existed.

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The Hogback Quarry currently provides 19% of the feed stone to Omya's Verpol plant and is considered a good supplemental feed due to its slightly higher purity in calcium carbonate content over other feed stone sources. Hogback Quarry feed cannot be used as a primary feed stone source due to its grayer color or lower brightness. Other quarries that provide feed stone to Verpol are Middlebury and South Wallingford. The Danby Quarry produces dimension stone or block stone primarily for architectural/building purposes.

Andy continued with a general overview of the quarrying process at Hogback which includes drilling, blasting, crushing and hauling.

In closing his presentation, Andy described Omya's land reclamation efforts at the Hogback Quarry. Dirt, off-color and unmarketable rock from the quarry is constructed into a stable landform. As a trial and using the expertise of a forester, a small section of this landform has been planted with a variety of tree species on four different planting surfaces. Some of the trees are protected with various forms of deer browse protection. The goal is to determine the types of planting surfaces and tree species that grow best on this landform, and return the land back to forest land and wildlife habitat.

#### IV. Issue Inventory

Bob and Andy provided the team with a list of the known Hogback Quarry-related issues. They also provided a brief overview of the other Community Issue Teams along with a general discussion of the topics on the agendas of those teams.

The known Hogback Quarry-related issues identified by Omya included:

- Noise/ tremors from blasting
- Water (quality, quantity)
- Dust
- Aggregate spilled on public roads

The discussion was then opened up for members to add any items they would like to address on the Quarry Team or discuss further some of the known quarry-related issues.

#### **Key Issues Raised:**

1. Perchlorate and its effect on water quality:
  - One team member expressed concern that while Omya no longer uses perchlorate in the quarrying process, how much of the chemical is/has been found remaining within the older Hogback Quarry stockpiles? Could this affect water quality in the area?
    - Andy acknowledged that perchlorate is no longer used in the blasting explosives, but traces well below the State of Vermont health advisory level have still been found in the water around the quarry. Omya doesn't know where the trace amount remaining is coming

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from, but the older stockpiles at the quarry may be a potential source. Included with this concern are any affects perchlorate may have on area water quality.

2. Water quantity impacts:
  - How does the Quarry affect water quantity in nearby wells and water supplies?
    - Andy explained how the water table worked. He described how pumping water out of the quarry causes groundwater around the quarry to flow towards the quarry. Since this pumping has the potential to lower the water table near the quarry, Omya periodically monitors levels in the water supplies of nearby wells and springs around the quarry. To date, this water supply monitoring has not found any impact to the quantity of nearby water supplies from pumping at the quarry. Andy added that water is regularly replenished via precipitation and when pumping ceases and the quarry fills with water, the water table reaches equilibrium once again.
3. Hogback's footprint:
  - How deep is the Quarry? How big is it? How much more would the Quarry be expanded?
    - Andy advised that the quarry's footprint is close to being established. Future quarrying will be concentrated on the lower benches of the quarry. The current depth of the multi-level quarry extends down to approximately 150 feet. The current size of the quarry is approximately 1/3 mile long.
4. Vehicle storage/ maintenance facility at Hogback:
  - Inquiry about the existence, location and use of the Truss-Arch Fabric Enclosure. Concern was expressed about the used motor oil which heats the structure and the potential emissions coming from burning this oil.
    - Andy pointed out the enclosure in his slide presentation and explained that the enclosure is used year round to perform maintenance on quarry equipment out of the weather in a heated space. The space is heated with a waste oil burner (compliant with the Vermont Air Pollution Control regulations). It was also explained that while Omya owns the Hogback Quarry, independent contractors own the processing equipment; trucks and other quarrying equipment.
5. Exhaust:
  - How does exhaust from the truck and quarry equipment affect air quality in the area?
6. Blasting:
  - How much dynamite is used in a typical blast? What is the measurement for the amount of dynamite used in blasting?
    - Bob answered that the maximum amount allowed in a single blast is 5,000 lbs. Andy stated that not all quarries in Vermont have the same blasting limits. The State of Vermont has set strict limits on blasting at the Hogback Quarry. Members

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detailed the shaking and rattling when blasting occurs and noted that the noise and shaking is more noticeable inside their home than outside. Members said they weren't sure they always felt two pulses of blasting, but when they did, the first was more noticeable. The general feeling from members was that over the years, the noise and shaking from blasting have not changed much. The team expressed a strong interest in a tour of the Hogback Quarry and if possible to see an actual blast. Andy noted that the blasting for the season has ended and will resume with other quarry operations in April 2008. It was agreed that a tour would be best when the quarry returned to regular operations.

7. Noise for quarry operations (not blasting):
  - Equipment and truck noise and noise associated with the general movement of rock were mentioned as a concern. It appears that more noise is coming from the quarry today than in the past. Are the stockpiles higher and could this be a contributing to an increase in noise?
    - Andy asked the team if the truck back- up alarms were an issue and the consensus was that it was not. One member mentioned that there now is a new type of radar alarm system for trucks backing up that might be of interest.
8. Impact of blasting on housing insulation:
  - Is it possible that blasting and quarry tremors could cause a settling effect on blown-in house insulation in area homes?
    - More information would need to be gathered to determine the possibility of blown-in house insulation settling.

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#### **V. Prioritized Issues and Next Steps**

Team Members prioritized three issues:

- (1) Water Quantity
- (2) Blasting Noise/Tremors
- (3) Noise from equipment

Bob and Andy said they would return to the next meeting with more information for the team to consider these issues.

The team agreed that the next meeting should occur after talking with members not in attendance. If members are interested in bringing anyone onto the team it was suggested that requirements to be considered are: nearby location of residence to the Hogback Quarry and that the person(s) live in Pittsford /Florence.

In the meantime, Team Members agreed to speak with their neighbors to ask what additional issues they have that the team should consider. Bob and Andy will call the Team Members that did not attend this meeting and confirm their interest in participating at future meetings.

Members in attendance agreed the meeting location and time were acceptable.

#### **VI. Next Meeting Date**

To be scheduled for the middle of March 2008.