



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 25, 2007

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## **OMYA DISTRIBUTES RESULTS FROM RECENT WATER MONITORING EVENT**

**Proctor, VT** – On Tuesday, consistent with its regulatory responsibility, Omya submitted results to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation from its regularly scheduled groundwater and surface water monitoring event.

In accordance with State-approved Monitoring and Quality Assurance Plans, water sampling was performed from May 29 – 31, 2007 by Heindel & Noyes: an independent environmental consulting firm.

The monitoring program includes the collection of samples from:

- ✍ 15 bedrock monitoring wells located on Omya's Florence property (onsite wells),
- ✍ six drinking water supplies, including the Pittsford – Florence Public water system, that are located off site; and,
- ✍ six offsite surface water locations.

The water quality data do not indicate evidence of human health or environmental harm.

With the exception of a low level of flotation reagent detected on-site and stearic acid in one off-site location, none of the substances utilized in Omya's process were detected in the on- or offsite monitoring locations.

Only one of the 27 sampling locations had detectable levels of flotation reagent. Components of the flotation reagent were detected at a combined level of 74 parts per billion (ppb) in a monitoring well centrally located onsite. The health advisory for the flotation reagent is set at a level of 126 ppb in drinking water.

Stearic acid was detected at 820 ppb at one offsite non-drinking water sampling location. There is no enforcement standard for stearic acid; it is a common ingredient in food products. No stearic acid was detected in any of the other 26 onsite or offsite sampling locations.

The element arsenic was detected in 11 of the 15 onsite locations with concentrations ranging from 0.1 ppb to 10.4 ppb. The Vermont Groundwater Enforcement Standard, for arsenic, for public drinking water supplies is 10.0 ppb. There are no drinking water supplies on the Omya site.

At offsite locations, arsenic was detected in concentrations that ranged from below 1 ppb to 3.1 ppb. At all offsite locations, no exceedences of the Vermont Groundwater Enforcement Standards were reported.



Arsenic is a naturally-occurring element and is common in soils, other geologic deposits, and the general environment. The concentrations seen in this monitoring event are not unusual for water that naturally contacts certain types of bedrock commonly found in Vermont and elsewhere. Omya does not use arsenic in any of its production operations.

The element manganese was found, onsite, in concentrations that ranged from 3 ppb to 3,480 ppb. The primary Vermont Groundwater Enforcement Standard for manganese is 300 ppb. The primary Vermont Groundwater Enforcement Standard for manganese was not exceeded in any of the offsite locations.

Omya takes its responsibility to the community seriously. We have visited our neighbors with water sampling locations on their property to explain these results and answer their questions. We will continue to work with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and local stakeholders on our groundwater management program and will continue to provide regular updates on progress.

We will do our best to explain the recent water monitoring results and invite our stakeholders to contact us with questions or comments. For further information please contact Michael Laurent, Environmental Manager at (802) 770-7568. Additional information about Omya's operations in Vermont can also be found at our website [www.OmyaInVermont.net](http://www.OmyaInVermont.net)

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