



**For immediate release  
For further information, contact:**

**September 15, 2006**

**Jim Reddy, President  
(802) 770-7123 Office  
(802) 345-0185 Cell**

## **OMYA COMMENTS ON WATER MONITORING RESULTS**

**PROCTOR, VT** – Jim Reddy, President of Omya North America, today issued the following statement:

“Today, we have notified residents in three homes near our Florence facility that our water monitoring has indicated the possible presence in their water sources of extremely low levels of flotation reagent utilized in our production process.

The report of test results was received by us yesterday (September 14) and we presented those results to the State Agency of Natural Resources yesterday afternoon.

It is important to note that the levels of flotation reagent measured were significantly below state health guidelines and the water does meet Vermont drinking water standards. This is the first time since testing began in 2001, that flotation reagent has been detected in water sources off-site.

Confirmation samples of the three sources of drinking water found no detectable levels of the flotation reagent.

We want to emphasize that the flotation reagent does not present known health issues in drinking water at the levels indicated and the water continues to meet Vermont drinking water standards.

According to the Vermont Department of Health, even “If an advisory is exceeded, it does not necessarily follow that adverse health effects will occur, but that further evaluation of the water supply is warranted.”

We are presently taking additional samples from all monitoring locations and will have the testing results of these samples within a few weeks.

In addition to the three properties noted above, flotation reagent was detected in two surface water locations near our Florence property line. The levels detected at those two surface water locations, which are not drinking water sources, exceeded state health guidelines and the owners of the land at those sites also have been notified of the test results.

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Since this is the first time in five years that the validated results of the off-site tests have shown the possible presence of flotation reagent these results appear to be irregular. While we await results from further tests, we are doing every thing possible to determine how the flotation reagent might have reached these sites.

The tests were conducted in conformance with the water Monitoring Plan approved by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). That plan calls for samples to be taken from area water sources twice annually and analyzed for various parameters relative to Omya's Florence operations.”

Omya has established the following information line to address any questions regarding the water monitoring reports: 802-770-7644