

## **Omya Community Issue Team – Quarry Issues**

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### **July 8, 2008 Meeting Summary**

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

**Date:** July 8, 2008

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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

John Lapre – Florence resident  
Andy McIntosh – Omya employee  
Bev Peterson – Florence resident  
Bob Steibly – Omya employee

#### *Absent:*

Pat Church - Florence resident  
Shawn Good – Florence resident  
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. The agenda and format for the third meeting was discussed. Member John Lapre had a Pittsford Town meeting to attend so the team agreed to be flexible with the agenda to accommodate his commitment.

### **II. Old Business**

Bob and Andy provided an overview of the previous meeting. The Team had no edits or changes to the meeting minutes of March 18, 2008. Meeting minutes were accepted for posting online at [www.omyainvermont.net](http://www.omyainvermont.net).

A discussion of team procedures for inviting guests to a Quarry Issue Team meeting or other Quarry Issue Team event was held for clarification to the entire team. The team procedures were accepted at the first team meeting held in December 2007. It was noted that all potential guests require prior approval from the Quarry Issue Team members.

### **III. Discussion of Prioritized Issues**

Andy and Bob reviewed the Team Members three prioritized issues:

- (1) Water Quantity/ Quality
- (2) Blasting Noise and Ground Vibration
- (3) Noise from equipment

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#### Blasting Noise/Ground Vibrations

Discussions began with blasting. One team member recounted some of their recent observations at the end June and beginning of July regarding what they experienced and did not experience on their property during Hogback Quarry blasts. This member plans to keep a log of the date, time and their observations of the blasts to provide additional information for the monitoring being done by the Hogback Quarry contractor. When questioned on whether or not the same amounts of explosives are used for each blast, Andy clarified that the amount used is specific to each blasting situation. He further added that using the proper amount of explosives to break the rock effectively, also generates the least amount of ground vibration and blasting noise at neighboring properties.

Currently, the Hogback Quarry contractor monitors the blasting on the Hogback Quarry property line adjacent to a neighboring property near the Hogback Quarry. Andy offered a team member the opportunity to monitor the blasting at their property as well, if they were interested. Andy will follow-up with this team member for confirmation of monitoring.

The team discussed the attendance of guests at future blast viewing events. Based on accepted Quarry Issue Team policies regarding guests at Quarry Issue Team events (see Old Business above), the team members were surveyed about their interest and availability in viewing a blast, and who should be invited to attend a blast viewing. Andy provided a summation of the team's responses about guest attendance, and one member presented their written response regarding guests at the blast viewings. Andy reviewed the questions that were asked of the team. The questions did not identify names of potential guests but rather categories that guests belong to. The categories of potential guests that team members were asked about were:

1. Neighbors living near the Hogback Quarry.
2. Members of the public not living near the Hogback Quarry.
3. A blasting expert independent of Omya.
4. Omya employees not on the Quarry Issue Team.

The Team decided that the blast viewing invitation should be limited to members of the Quarry Issue Team, local Florence neighbors living near the Hogback Quarry, and a blasting expert independent of Omya. All but one member were against inviting guests that did not live near the Hogback Quarry, and many members felt that these particular blast viewings were not intended for Omya employees as well. The intention of this event was simply to educate the Quarry Issue Team members on blasting and its effects.

It was agreed that two blast viewings, one at the Hogback Quarry and one at a neighboring property, would provide the most educational benefit to the team. The future blast viewing dates will be set and local Florence neighbors that surround or

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are adjacent to the Hogback Quarry will be invited. In addition, the team unanimously agreed that the use of an independent blasting consultant would be valuable to explain the details of the blasting and its effect on nearby structures. In addition to the standard monitoring location, monitoring of noise and vibration will also take place at both viewing locations and will be reviewed and analyzed by the consultant. The blasts for each viewing are designed to be representative of the ongoing blasting at the Hogback Quarry. The location, date and time of the blast viewings will be communicated when finalized.

### **Water Quantity/Quality**

The Draft Perchlorate May Monitoring results were discussed. The Final monitoring report is due to the State on July 25. The process for communicating this information will be as follows:

1. Geosyntec will mail final data to all participating well owners and will directly follow-up with calls to each owner as well.
2. Omya will email and/or mail data to neighbors and stakeholders.
3. A meeting will be scheduled with neighbors/stakeholders (Environmental Issues Team members) for Geosyntec to present the final data from the May Monitoring event.

May Monitoring Draft findings show:

- No detections of Perchlorate in the Kallen or Meachum wells.
- Low levels of Perchlorate <0.15 PPB detected at Quarry Sump & North Outfall. These levels are 25+ times below the Groundwater Enforcement Standard of 4 PPB.
- Low levels of Perchlorate detected at Town Water Supply (0.115 PPB), well below the Groundwater Enforcement Standard of 4 PPB.

### **Noise from Equipment**

At this time noise will be left as a priority issue to be addressed as necessary. A member made the comment that the Quarry noise has not been as noticeable lately. Andy added that the lower noise levels may partly be due to the section of the Quarry the contractors are currently working in and the member's property location to that area.

### **Other**

Team membership was addressed. The Team was asked to speak with their neighbors about quarry-related concerns and to continue to look for interested neighbors surrounding the Hogback Quarry to join the Quarry Issues Team. Bob Steibly presented John Haverstock, the Pittsford Town Manager, as a potential new Quarry

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Issue Team member to replace out-going member Amy Loomis. One of the members present abstained from approval of John as a new member based on not having any familiarity with him. All other members present voiced support of John as a new team member. Prior to the next meeting, all team members will be asked if they approve of John as a new team member.

Residents of Pittsford or Florence that are interested in participation on other Omya Community Issues Teams are encouraged to contact community members of those teams or contact Omya directly through the Community Feedback Line at (802) 770-7644.

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

The Prioritized Issues remain:

- (1) Water Quality / Quality
- (2) Blasting Noise and Ground Vibration
- (3) Noise from equipment.

Next Steps:

Andy presented the team with a new agenda item called “Current Happenings at Omya” as a means to provide general information related to topics other than the Quarry Issue Team. This agenda item will be placed on the agenda after “Discussion and Next Steps”. On this new agenda item, the following topics were briefly mentioned:

1. Introduction of the newly created Environmental Issues Team which is comprised mostly of the Section 5 stakeholders. Geosyntec will present May Monitoring Data at a meeting to be scheduled in July/August.
2. Future proposal to extend Hogback Quarry operations from seasonal to year round operation. Currently, Hogback Quarry’s Act 250 permit does not allow blasting or crushing at the Hogback Quarry from December 1 to March 31. Year round operation will allow Hogback Quarry’s contractor more time and flexibility in using the rock resource in the quarry more efficiently. This change would require the applicable permitting and include public participation.

Action Items:

- Presentation of May Water Monitoring final data.
- Organize blast viewing before next meeting.

### **V. Next Meeting Date**

The date set for the fourth Quarry Issues Team is Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM in the Maclure Library.