



State of Vermont  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Waste Management & Prevention Division  
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AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

August 28, 2023

Mr. Brett Tremblay, Facilities Manager  
Northfield Savings Bank  
1021 Paine Turnpike N  
Berlin, VT 05602

RE: **Initial Release Notification Letter**  
Northfield Savings Bank - Barre  
289 North Main Street  
Barre, VT  
SMS Site #2023.5341

Dear Mr. Tremblay:

On *July 19, 2023*, the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Waste Management and Prevention Division (WMPD), Sites Management Section (SMS), received a referral from the WMPD Storage Tanks and the Spill Programs regarding a potential release of hazardous materials that was discovered during the UST system closure on June 19, 2023, at the above referenced property. As *owner* of the property, *Northfield Savings Bank* may be considered liable and a potentially responsible party. As established in §10 V.S.A. 6615, a person who is determined to be liable for the release is required to take actions to determine the degree and extent of contamination at the site. This letter details the actions *Northfield Savings Bank* must take as *owner* of both the UST system and property.

The UST Closure Assessment Report, dated July 13, 2023, was reviewed for the *Northfield Savings Bank* property in *Barre, VT*. The UST Closure Assessment Report was prepared for Northfield Savings Bank, and the WMPD Storage Tanks and the Spill Programs. The UST system and property are currently owned by *Northfield Savings Bank* of Berlin, VT.

Information presented in the UST Closure Assessment Report regarding the site includes the following:

- One 4,000-gallon heating oil UST was removed on June 19, 2023.
- Approximately 2,600-gallons of fuel oil were pumped out via vacuum truck and recycled for reuse.
- Saturated soils were observed directly below the UST at 10 feet below ground surface (bgs).
- Thirty-four (34) soil samples were collected for field screening purposes. A Photoionization Detector (PID) was utilized to detect the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) within the soils surrounding the UST.
- The highest PID reading of 547.6 parts per million (ppm) was recorded from below the UST along its northern center.
- Strong fuel oil odors were observed within the soils directly beneath the UST inlet piping and below the UST.
- The limits of impacted soils were not defined due to the presence of a concrete pad at the base of the UST excavation.
- Impacted soils were returned to the excavation prior to backfilling.



- One soil sample was collected from beneath the northern portion of the UST at the location of the highest PID reading. The soil sample was submitted for laboratory analysis of VOCs by EPA Method 8260C.
- Laboratory results reported that the soil sample contained VOCs above the laboratory detection limits but below the Vermont Soil Standards (VSS).
- No groundwater samples were collected during the UST removal activities.
- A site investigation was recommended to determine the extent of contamination around the former dispenser sumps.

As the current property *owner of record* where a release has occurred, *Northfield Savings Bank* must retain the services of a qualified environmental consultant to conduct the following:

- A. Develop a site investigation work plan for approval in accordance with Subchapter 5, §35-505 of the Investigation and Remediation of Contaminated Properties Rule (IRule) ([https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/Sites/0706.IRULE\\_.pdf](https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/Sites/0706.IRULE_.pdf)). The work plan must be submitted to the SMS by **September 28, 2023**, and must meet the objectives of a site investigation, per IRule §35-302, and include all work plan requirements listed in IRule §35-505(b).
- B. The site investigation report must be submitted within 90 days of receiving final laboratory data.

Based on current information, investigation activities related to petroleum contamination at this property may be eligible for reimbursement from the VT Petroleum Cleanup Fund (PCF). You must provide written proof that no applicable insurance exists in order to receive reimbursement from the PCF. Documentation required must include a complete copy of the applicable property or liability policies that were in place on the date the contamination was discovered; and a pollution coverage statement from the insurance carrier(s). The statement(s) must include name and address of the insurer, the name of the policyholder, policy number(s) and dates of coverage. The name and telephone number of the claims analyst or contact person is also necessary, and if coverage is denied, then a statement referencing specific policy language invoked to deny coverage of the claim.

If eligibility for the PCF is established, the tank owner or permittee must pay for the initial \$10,000.00 of the cleanup per release. The fund will reimburse the tank owner or permittee for eligible cleanup costs of up to \$990,000 per release. All expenditures must be pre-approved by the SMS to be reimbursed. Site investigation work must follow the IRule. In addition, information regarding the PCF may be found in the Procedures for Reimbursement from the Petroleum Cleanup Fund, which is located on our website: [http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/documents/PCFReimb\\_11\\_Rev.pdf](http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/documents/PCFReimb_11_Rev.pdf).

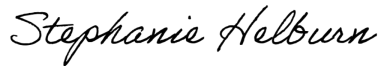
Failure to conduct the necessary site work is a violation of Vermont Statutes and may result in State Enforcement Action. Enforcement Action may be a Civil Complaint and penalty pursuant to 10 V.S.A §8019 or an Administrative Order pursuant to 10 V.S.A §8008 including compliance order, penalties, corrective action, and any other measures deemed appropriate.

Additionally, pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 6615d, the Secretary may assess damages against any potentially responsible party for injury to, destruction of, or loss of a natural resource caused by the release of hazardous material.

This site has been issued SMS Site number 2023.5341 for tracking purposes. This number must be referenced on all submitted documentation pertaining to the site.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Helburn".

Stephanie L. Helburn, CHMM

Project Manager

Sites Management Section

CC: Jeremy Roberts. P.G. (jeremyr@kas-consulting.com)

**Additional Information:**

A list of environmental consultants that perform this type of work in Vermont can be found at [https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/Consult.lst\\_.pdf](https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/Consult.lst_.pdf).