

State of Vermont  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Waste Management Division  
103 South Main Street/West Building  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0404  
(802) 241-3888  
FAX (802) 241-3296

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

January 17, 2007

Sheldon Scott, President  
Whitney Blake Company  
PO Box 579  
Bellows Falls, VT 05101-0579

RE: Site Management Activity Completed at the Whitney Blake Company, Rockingham, VT  
SMS Site #770199

Dear Mr. Scott:

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Sites Management Section (SMS) has completed a file review of the Whitney Blake Company of Vermont and the report dated August 28, 2006, submitted by the Johnson Company. Based on the available information, the SMS concludes the following:

- The Whitney Blake Company is located on Industrial Drive in Bellows Falls, Vt. This facility has operated from this location since 1966. Prior land use was undeveloped land. Whitney Blake operates as a specialty conductor manufacturer.
- In the early 1980's, the Bellow Falls Water Department discovered chlorinated solvent contamination during an investigation to identify a new source of drinking water on an adjacent property. This investigation revealed that Whitney Blake had used 1,1,1-trichloroethane as a solvent, and the process wastewater was disposed onsite in a series of ponds.
- In 1985, this property was added to the Vermont Active Hazardous Sites List and assigned site #770199. In 1990, the Whitney Blake property was listed on the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (Cerclis). During the EPA investigation, samples were collected from the process water well, wastewater entering the onsite pond, sediments and soil samples from known disposal areas. Groundwater samples were also collected from the adjacent property water well. Results of this investigation indicated no onsite contamination above reference criteria. The adjacent water well contained concentrations of several volatile organic compounds.
- In 1995, the EPA determined that a 'No Further Federal Response Action Planned' decision was appropriate for this property. The Whitney Blake property remained on the Vermont Hazardous Sites List.
- In 1998, Whitney Blake retained Griffin International to replace piping associated with a 10,000 gallon fuel oil underground storage tank. Screened soils from the UST excavation had volatile organic compound (VOC) concentrations ranging up to 40 parts per million (ppm), as measured by a photo-ionization detector (PID). Approximately 15 cubic yards of petroleum contaminated soils were excavated and stockpiled onsite for further monitoring. Two post excavation soil samples were collected for laboratory analysis. Results of this testing reveal no petroleum related compounds were detected.



- In 2006, Whitney Blake retained the Johnson Company to collect water samples from the onsite process water well, wastewater and pond. The stockpiled soils were also screened. No VOC concentrations were detected in any of the water samples. The PID screening of the soils revealed 0.0 ppm on the PID. The stockpiled soils can be thin spread onsite in accordance with the DEC's "Agency Guidelines for Petroleum Contaminated Soil and Debris".
- From the information presented, no unacceptable threat to human health and the environment is present due to the residual contamination remaining in the ground.

Based on the above, the SMS is assigning a Site Management Activity Completed (SMAC) designation for this site. This SMAC designation does not release Whitney Blake Company from any past or future liability associated with the contamination at this site. It does, however, mean the SMS is not requesting any additional work in response to the 1985 discovery of solvent contamination and the 1998 UST removal work.

Please feel free to call with any questions. I can be reached at 802-241-3491.

Sincerely,



George Desch, Hazardous Sites Program Manager  
Sites Management Section

c: DEC Regional Office  
Joel Behrsing, P.E., Johnson Company