



## State of Vermont

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
State Geologist  
RELAY SERVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED  
1-800-253-0191 TDD>Voice  
1-800-253-0195 Voice>TDD

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Waste Management Division  
103 South Main Street/West Office  
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0404  
(802) 241-3888  
FAX (802) 241-3296

January 18, 2006

Mr. Mike Morissette  
Hazardous Materials & Waste Coordinator  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
133 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633

RE: Site Management Activities Completed, Knapp State Airport, Berlin, VT (SMS Site #1990-0546)

Dear Mr. Morissette:

During the week of January 9, 2006, the Sites Management Section (SMS) received verbal confirmation that the monitoring wells once located on the Knapp State Airport property no longer exist; the wells were likely destroyed during construction activities. Additionally, the SMS has reviewed our site file, which details contamination discovered during the removal of multiple underground storage tanks (USTs) from the property. With this information, the SMS has made the following determinations:

- On July 3, 1990, petroleum contaminated soils were discovered during the removal of three 1,000 gallon gasoline USTs (USTs 1-3), and one 750 gallon gasoline UST (UST 4), from the E.F. Knapp State Airport in Berlin, VT. UST 1, 2, and 3 were reported to be in fair condition, and UST 4 was reported to be in poor condition. Soils screened during the tank excavation had volatile organic compound (VOC) concentrations ranging from 150 to 250 parts per million (ppm), as measured by a photoionization detector (PID). Approximately 30 cubic yards of excavated soils were stockpiled at the Huntington Homes site within the airport property. Soils in the excavation pit were primarily silt underlain by clay.
- On Jun 5, 1991, one 1,000 gallon heating oil UST was removed from the Knapp State Airport property. Soils screened during the tank excavation had VOC concentrations ranging from 15 to 40 ppm. Between 10 to 12 cubic yards of petroleum contaminated soils were removed and polyencapsulated at the Huntington Homes site.
- On August 1, 1991, several soil stockpiles at the Huntington Homes site were screened with a PID. One stockpile, consisting of approximately 30 cubic yards of soil, exhibited VOC concentrations ranging from 0.0 to 20 ppm. Two additional stockpiles had been screened the previous fall, and were determined to be non-detect for the presence of petroleum compounds; in a letter dated August 1, 1991, the Agency of Transportation (AOT) requested permission to spread these piles on-site. The same letter requested permission to relocate between 60 and 80 cubic yards of petroleum contaminated soils from the Central Garage Complex to the Knapp State Airport, pending analysis for total soil hydrocarbons via EPA Method 418.1, and for VOCs via EPA Method 8240.
- In a letter dated June 30, 1992, the SMS requested information regarding the status of the 30 cubic yards of petroleum contaminated soils stockpiled on-site. The SMS requested that the AOT either develop a plan to treat the soil stockpile, or to have the soils properly disposed, so that the site could be closed.

- In a letter report dated October 6, 1997, Heindel & Noyes detailed a site assessment conducted at the Knapp State Airport during the removal of one 10,000 gallon aviation gas UST. The UST was reported to be in good condition. Groundwater was encountered 10.0 ft below ground surface, and bedrock was encountered at approximately 10.5 ft below ground surface. Stained soils were observed in the vicinity of the fill pipe. A PID was used to screen for VOC concentrations in the groundwater saturated soils surrounding the fill pipe, and a peak reading of 38 ppm was recorded. Additionally, two soil samples were collected for laboratory analysis, although no analytical information was provided to the SMS. The total volume of stained soils was estimated to be less than 1.0 cubic yards. Additional investigation was not recommended.
- A December 4, 2000 email from the SMS reiterated the request for information pertaining to the status of the 30 cubic yards of petroleum contaminated soil stockpiled following the 1990 UST pulls. The December 12, 2000 response indicated that the soils might have been incorporated to a land-farming project conducted at the airport in 1992. This was confirmed in a February 19, 2004 letter from the AOT.
- In a letter dated March 1, 2004, the SMS requested that all on-site monitoring wells be closed in accordance with the State well closure guidance. During the week of January 9, 2006, the SMS received verbal confirmation that no wells exist on the Knapp State Airport property.

Based on the above, it appears that the site does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the SMS is assigning this site a Site Management Activity Completed (SMAC) designation. The SMAC designation does not release the Agency of Transportation from any past or future liability associated with the petroleum contamination at this site. It does, however, mean that the SMS is not requesting any additional work in response to the UST removals at this time.

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

Sincerely,



George Desch, Chief, P.E.  
Sites Management Section

cc: DEC Regional Office  
Berlin Select Board  
Berlin Town Health Officer