State of Vermont

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

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

September 9, 2005

Bruce Simpson
Atherton Mill Corporation
PO Box 296
Dublin, NH 03444

RE: Sites Management Activities Completed Designation
Atherton Mill Property (former Cavendish Lumber), Cavendish, Vermont (SMS Site #95-1909)

Dear Mr. Simpson:

The Sites Management Section (SMS) has received a report documenting recent investigation activities at the above referenced site, which was submitted by MACTEC. The SMS has also reviewed the file for the site, which details several areas of contamination discovered during a site inspection in 1995. With this information, the SMS has made the following determination:

- On May 24, 1995, Heindel & Noyes Consultants conducted a site inspection at this facility which indicated that there had been several releases of petroleum related compounds. The area of primary concern was located beneath a diesel aboveground storage tank (AST). Photoionization detector (PID) readings taken in this vicinity showed volatile organic compound (VOC) concentrations as high as 28 parts per million (ppm). Soils appeared to be stained with petroleum.

- A letter dated September 21, 1995 from JD Stearns (Consulting) indicated that a total of 52 cubic yards of soil located beneath the diesel fuel tank and an area near the old planer building were excavated and moved to the onsite gravel pit, where they were stockpiled and polyencapsulted. Test pits advanced in the log receiving area, wood waste dumping area and another area in the gravel pit showed no evidence of petroleum contamination.

- A letter dated December 19, 1995 from the SMS acknowledged the information contained in the JW Stearns report, and requested that additional monitoring of the soil stockpile be conducted.

- On May 11, 2005, MACTEC Engineering conducted additional subsurface investigation to further define the extent of contamination and to investigate the stockpiled soils. The soil stockpile showed no visual or olfactory evidence of contamination, and no positive PID readings. Several soil borings advanced near the Former Planar Building and the Mill Building also had no positive PID readings in soils. Three temporary monitoring wells were also developed at the site in the presumed downgradient direction from the soil stockpile and buildings. All confirmatory samples of soils and groundwater had no volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs) exceeding the minimum laboratory detection limits.

- Temporary monitoring wells were closed following the investigation, as verified in an email from MACTEC on September 6, 2005.

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- No unacceptable risk to human health or the environment is believed to be present due to the residual contamination remaining at the site from the former diesel AST or soil stockpile. The stockpiled soils remaining at the site may be thinspread or stored *only at the Atherton Mill Property* unless the SMS grants approval for their transportation, destruction and/or spreading elsewhere.

Based on the above, the SMS is assigning this site a Site Management Activity Completed (SMAC) designation. The SMAC designation will not release the owners of the Atherton Mill Property from any past or future liability associated with the petroleum contamination at the site. It does, however, mean that the SMS is not requesting any additional work in response to the contamination discovered at the property to this date.

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: Lee Gustafson, MACTEC
DEC Regional Office (Springfield)
Cavendish Town Health Officer
Cavendish Select Board