State of Vermont

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October 15, 1997

MR DALE FILLION
AUTOMASTER MOTOR COMPANY
PO BOX 220
SHELBURNE, VT 05482

RE: Sites Management Activity Completed (SMAC) at the Automaster Shelburne, VT (Site #96-2073)

Dear Mr. Fillion:

The Sites Management Section (SMS) has reviewed the letter report dated September 12, 1997 by Binkerd Environmental for the Automaster property in Shelburne. With the information presented in this and preceding reports, the SMS has the following understanding about the petroleum contamination at the site:

- Soil and groundwater contamination was found during the removal of two underground storage tanks (USTs): a 3,000-gallon gasoline UST and a 4,000-gallon gasoline UST on August 27, 1997. Photoionization detector (PID) readings of the contaminated soil ranged from zero parts per million (ppm) to 135 ppm.

- On October 18, 1996, two 1,000-gallon waste oil USTs were removed. There was no visual or olfactory evidence of contamination from the USTs. The highest PID readings of a soil sample from the excavation was 2.5 ppm.

- Water level measurements were taken from the four onsite monitoring wells (MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, and MW-4) on December 29, 1996. Depth to groundwater was less than two feet, and groundwater flow was toward the southwest. Monitoring wells MW-1 and MW-2 are next to the location of the former waste oil USTs, and MW-3 and MW-4 are next to the location of the former gasoline USTs. On December 29, 1996, MW-3 and MW-4 were sampled. Benzene concentrations were 8 parts per billion (ppb), which is slightly above the Vermont Groundwater Enforcement Standards (VGES) of 5 ppb. Also, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) concentrations in MW-3 were 54 ppb, which is above the Vermont Health Advisory (VHA) level of 40 ppb.

- All four monitoring wells were sampled on June 22, 1996. No contaminants above the VGES were found in the monitoring wells. Detectable concentrations of MTBE were found in MW-1, MW-3, and MW-4; however, the highest concentration was 27 ppb in MW-4, which is below the VHA level of 40 ppb. Groundwater depth and flow direction was consistent with that found in the December 29, 1996 sampling.

- On August 31, 1997, two piezometers and two temporary monitoring wells (MW-5 and MW-6) were installed. The two piezometers provided additional data points to determine groundwater flow, which was toward the northwest. Based on this data, there appears to be a seasonal change

(Over)

in groundwater flow. When the flow direction is toward the southwest, under shallow groundwater conditions, MW-5 is the downgradient well from the USTs. When the flow direction is northwest, MW-6 is the downgradient well. No contaminants above the VGES were found in groundwater samples from MW-5 and MW-6. MTBE concentrations of 42.7 ppb, which is slightly above the VHA of 40 ppb, were found in MW-6.

- The shallow aquifer consists primarily of silt, which has a low hydraulic conductivity. Coupled with a shallow hydraulic gradient (0.025), groundwater flow beneath the site is slow. Travel time calculations estimate that it would take approximately 50 years for groundwater to move from the former UST location to the western property line. Given the low MTBE concentrations in MW-6, it is unlikely that contaminant concentration above the VGES and VHA levels will migrate off the property. Therefore, the potential impact of groundwater contamination on the residential housing development to the west and the Monroe Brook to the southwest are low.

- The Automaster and surrounding areas are serviced by a municpal water supply.

- The subsurface contamination at the site is below a paved surface.

Based on the above, the SMS believes that the residual petroleum contamination at the site does not pose an unreasonable risk to human health and safety or the environment. Therefore, the SMS is assigning this site a Site Management Activity Completed (SMAC) designation. This SMAC designation does not release you of any past or future liability associated with the petroleum contamination remaining in the ground from the removed USTs. It does, however, mean that the SMS is not requesting any additional work at this time.

If the monitoring wells at the site are no longer used or maintained, then they must be properly closed to eliminate a possible conduit for contaminant migration into the subsurface. This closure typically involves filling the wells with a grout material to prevent fluid migration in the borehole. Specific requirements for well closure are outlined in Section 12.3.5 in Appendix A of the Vermont Water Supply Rule-Chapter 21. Also, the road box or stand-up well guard for a monitoring well must be removed before well closure is considered complete. The SMS considers reasonable costs to properly close monitoring wells at this site reimbursable by the Petroleum Cleanup Fund (PCF) if uninsured and eligible costs for cleanup at the site exceed the $10,000 deductible.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (802) 241-3888.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Shelburne Selectboard
DEC Regional Office
Mr. Roger Binkerd, Binkerd Environmental
JS:wp51/sites/962073/amc.smc