



# State of Vermont

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## AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES Department of Environmental Conservation

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June 4, 1997

MR. SCOTT HARRINGTON  
PROPERTY SERVICES DIRECTOR  
BURLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
287 SHELBURNE ROAD  
BURLINGTON, VT 05401

RE: Site Management Activity Complete designation  
Edmunds Middle School, 160 South Union Street, Burlington, VT  
SMS Site # 96-2121

Dear Mr. Harrington:

The Sites Management Section (SMS) has received the *Report on the Site Investigation of Subsurface Petroleum Contamination* (report) for the above referenced site submitted by Timothy Kelly of Griffin International on May 23, 1997. This report was prepared in response to contamination detected during the underground storage tank (UST) removal on October 25, 1996. The subsequent investigation was requested in a letter from SMS dated February 4, 1997. The Burlington Public Schools elected to proceed with a subsurface investigation following the "Site Investigation Expressway Notification" process via facsimile submission on February 25, 1997. The notification was approved and returned to Mr. Kelly via facsimile the same day.

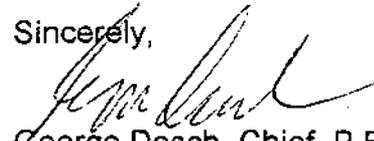
With the information presented in the report, the SMS can now make the following conclusions:

- On October 25, 1996, one 10,000 gallon fuel oil underground storage tank (UST) was removed from the subsurface. During removal activities an assessment was performed to determine the degree of contamination present. Soils screened by photoionization detector (PID) headspace methodology indicated contamination of volatile organic compounds (VOC) at levels ranging from 2.0 to 32.0 parts per million (PPM). Soil samples obtained in the UST excavation were analyzed for VOCs by EPA Methods 8260 and 8100 modified for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH). Analytical data indicated VOC concentrations above enforcement standards established under the Primary Groundwater Quality Standards.

- On February 21, 1997, nine soil borings were advanced to depths ranging from 1.5 to 16.0 feet below grade (fbg) in an effort to determine the degree and extent of contamination to soil and groundwater on the site. Five hand auger (HA) locations were advanced along the path of the remote fill piping which remained in the ground following the UST removal. Four hollow stem auger (HSA) locations were advanced up and down-gradient of the former UST cavity. Two of the HSA borings were completed as shallow overburden groundwater monitoring wells. Soils obtained during HA boring activities did not exhibit any VOC concentrations as measured by PID headspace methodology. Soils obtained during HSA boring activities exhibited VOC concentrations ranging from 0.1 to 26.0 ppm as measured by a PID headspace methodology. Two soil and two groundwater samples obtained from the respective locations were submitted for laboratory analysis by EPA Methods 602 and 8100 modified for TPH. Analytical data for the samples indicated only a trace below the quantitation limit of 1.0 ppm for TPH in the two water samples collected. No VOC concentrations were detected above method specific detection limits in any other soil or groundwater sample.
- The report provides an evaluation of the potential sensitive receptors relative to contamination detected at the Edmunds Middle School site. The Edmunds Middle School building is located cross-gradient of the former UST location, and the extent of soil contamination is limited. Therefore, there is little risk that the school will be adversely affected by this release. The site and surrounding properties are served by municipal water supply and waste water disposal services. There is little to no risk of groundwater and soil impact by the residual petroleum contamination.
- No unacceptable risk to human health and the environment is present due to any residual contamination remaining in the ground from the removed USTs.

Based on the above information, the SMS has assigned this site a Site Management Activity Completed (SMAC) designation. This SMS designation does not release the Burlington Public Schools of any past or future liability associated with the petroleum contamination on-site. It does, however, mean that the SMS is not requesting any additional work in response to the Edmunds Middle School UST removal.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Burlington Selectboard  
DEC Regional Office  
Timothy Kelly, Griffin International, Inc.