



State of Vermont

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November 3, 2000

TERRY ROBBINS
NORTH COUNTRY HOSPITAL
189 PROUTY STREET
NEWPORT VERMONT 05855

RE: Sites Management Activity Completed at North Country Hospital
Newport, Vermont (Site #97-2319)

Dear Mr. Harris:

Based on reports submitted by Marin Environmental and Ross Environmental, the Sites Management Section (SMS) has the following understanding of the known petroleum contamination at the site:

- Soil contamination was found during the closure activities of two 10,000-gallon No. 4 fuel oil underground storage tanks (USTs) on November 4, 1997. UST #1 was two feet from the north side of the hospital and was closed in place. UST #2 was located five feet north of UST #1 and was removed. The depth of excavation was 10 feet, and no groundwater was found. The soils throughout the excavation consisted of medium sands. After cleaning UST #1, free-product of No. 4 fuel oil seeped back into the tank through two holes. UST #2 was in good condition with no holes. Soils samples from the excavation of UST #2 were screening with a photoionization detector (PID). The PID ranged from 0 parts per million (ppm) to 36.1 ppm. Approximately 35 cubic yards of soil were polyencapsulated onsite so that the two new 10,000-gallon USTs could be installed.
- Within the excavation for UST #2, two composite soil samples were collected and analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) using EPA Method 8020 and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) using EPA Method 8100. No target compounds were detected in the samples. No soil samples were taken from the UST #1 excavation due to the free-product beneath the tank.
- On December 9, 1997, two monitoring wells (MW-5 and MW-6) were installed; MW-5 was installed next to UST #1 and MW-6 was installed about 60 feet northeast of the UST area. Monitoring wells MW-5 and MW-6 were drilled to depths of 13.5 feet and 20 feet, respectively. The highest PID readings in soil samples from the monitoring wells was 3.6 ppm in MW-5.
- On May 4, 1999, groundwater samples were collected from the three monitoring wells (MW-1, MW-2, and MW-5) closest to the former UST location. The groundwater samples were analyzed for VOCs using EPA Method 8021b. No target VOCs were detected in the three monitoring wells in this or previous sampling rounds at the site.

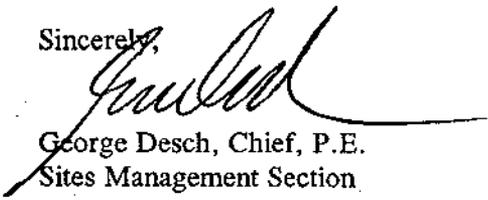
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- Marin Environmental performed a sensitive receptor survey and risk assessment at the site. The closest sensitive receptors are the hospital and nearby dwellings, which are served by a municipal water system, a onsite water supply well that is not in use, and wetlands located about 60 feet northeast of the USTs. The potential threat the contamination poses to nearby receptors is low given that the results from the UST investigation and site investigation suggest that the contamination is limited to the former UST location.
- The onsite water supply well was planned to be used for the boiler but was never used because of its high sediment content. Based on report by Marin Environmental dated October 14, 1998, the well was closed on May 5, 1998. However, the description in the report is not clear whether this well was closed following the guidelines in Appendix A of the Vermont Water Supply Rule-Chapter 21. The report does not specify that the casing was filled with impermeable material. As specified in the Vermont Water Supply Rule-Chapter 21, wells that are not in use must be properly closed. The SMS recommends that you obtain clarification from your consultant on whether the well was properly closed. If the well was not closed as specified in the Water Supply Rule, then measures should be taken to close the well properly.
- On August 18, 2000, a 2,000-gallon #2 fuel oil UST was removed. The UST and associated piping were in good condition. PID readings within the UST excavation were zero. The highest PID reading was 2.4 ppm in soils near the fill pipe.
- On October 19, 1999, Ross Environmental screened the contaminated soils stockpiled onsite for VOCs with a photoionization detector (PID). Seven soil samples were collected for PID screening. No VOCs were detected in the samples. On June 10, 2000, the soils were used as a base fill-material beneath the pavement of an on-site parking lot.
- On May 16, 2000, Ross Environmental submitted a letter indicating that the six on-site monitoring wells were closed in accordance with the guidelines in the Vermont Water Supply Rule-Chapter 21. The PVC piping were removed and the boreholes were sealed with bentonite.

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 UST. It does, however, mean that the SMS is not requesting any additional work at this time.

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

Sincerely,


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

cc: Newport Selectboard
DEC Regional Office
Robert Ross, Ross Environmental

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