



State of Vermont

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September 13, 1999

GERALD PRUE
BENNINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
PO BOX 3600
SOUTH STREAM ROAD
BENNINGTON VERMONT 05201

RE: Sites Management Activity Completed at the Beech Street School
Bennington, Vermont (Site #98-2367)

Dear Mr. Prue:

The Sites Management Section has reviewed the following reports by Aaron and Sons Environmental Services:

- Information about Underground Storage Tank (UST) Closure at the site dated May 28, 1998
- Initial Response Action Plan Summary Report dated June/July 1998
- Letter Report dated May 11, 1999 describing confirmatory sampling round

Based on the above reports, the Sites Management Section (SMS) has the following understanding about the site:

- A temporary oil/water separator with a carbon filter was constructed to prevent the direct discharge of foundation drain water contaminated with fuel oil from entering the small tributary of South Stream.
- A 2,000-gallon fuel oil underground storage tank (UST) was removed.
- Test pits along the foundation drain were excavated to determine the extent of contamination. Based on the test pits, the native soils at the site consist primarily of clay. Depth of groundwater was approximately five feet near the onsite building.
- The septic system was investigated for contamination. Liquid from the septic tank and dry well were removed. A sheen was evident on the water surface in the dry well.
- The existing foundation drain was removed and replaced.
- Approximately 120 cubic yards of soil contaminated with fuel oil were removed from the UST and foundation drain area. The soil were sent to Maxymillian Technologies for thermal destruction on June 12, 1998.

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- Aaron & Sons concluded that based on their soil screening data, the soil contamination from the UST release was confined to the UST area and the foundation drain due to the impervious nature of the clay soils. The soil was removed during the remedial action.
- On June 8, 1998, and on June 24, 1998, foundation drain discharge before entering the oil/water separator was sampled for non-halogenated volatile organic compounds (VOCs) using EPA Method 8021b and TPH using modified EPA Method 8100. No contamination above detection limits were found in the samples. Given the analytical data for the two samples, the SMS had no objections with Aaron and Sons request to remove the oil/water separator.
- To confirm that petroleum constituents were no longer entering the tributary of the South Stream, Aaron and Sons on April 6, 1999, collected another water sample from the foundation drain discharge and analyzed the samples for non-halogenated VOCs using EPA Method 8021b and TPH using modified EPA Method 8100. No target compounds were detected.
- During the April 1999 sampling, Aaron and Sons also inspected the South Stream and its tributary for evidence petroleum contamination and collected a water sample from the onsite septic system dry well. Aaron and Sons did not observe any evidence of contamination along the South Stream and its tributary. The water sample from the dry well was analyzed for VOCs and TPH. No target VOCs were detected. The TPH concentration of the sample was 1.52 parts per billion (ppb).

Based on the above understanding of the site, the SMS believes that the residual 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 current or past owners of any past or future liability associated with the contamination found at the site. 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 John Schmeltzer or me at (802) 241-3888.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Toni King, Aaron and Sons
DEC Regional Office
Bennington Selectboard

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