

State of Vermont  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Waste Management Division  
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October 3, 2006

STEPHEN BAKER  
COUNTRY NEWS DISTRIBUTORS  
PO BOX 1258  
BRATTLEBORO, VT 05302-1258

RE: Sites Management Activity Complete, Country News Distributors, SMS Site #98-2372  
Brattleboro, Vermont

Dear Mr. Baker:

The Sites Management Section (SMS) has reviewed the August 2006 report titled, "*Biennial Groundwater Monitoring Report, Country News Distributors, Putney Road, Brattleboro, Vermont, SMS # 98-2372*" prepared by Environmental Compliance Services (ECS) for groundwater monitoring conducted at your property on July 5. The SMS has also reviewed information contained in the site file. With this information, the SMS can now make the following conclusions:

- During the April 22 and 23, 1998 removal of 2 fuel oil USTs and 1 gasoline UST, contaminated soil was observed. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were measured using a photoionization detector (PID), readings of the soils at the gasoline UST east of the site building ranged from 260 to 900 parts per million (ppm) and from 0 to 50 ppm near at the fuel oil USTs (both were in the same tank pit west of the building). The soils were observed to be coarse sands and gravel. Groundwater was not encountered to a depth of 19'. Contaminated soils were backfilled and additional investigation was required.
- On September 10, 1998, 5 groundwater monitor wells were installed in order to evaluate potential contamination related to the USTs. Wells ECS-1 through -3 were completed to 35' into fine sand and wet clay west of the building, in the fuel oil UST area. Petroleum odors and PID readings ranging from 0 to 41 ppm were noted in the well cuttings at these wells. ECS-4 and -5 were installed 20' into fine sand and silt. Petroleum odors and PID readings ranging from 7.8 to 1459 ppm were noted in the well cuttings from ECS-5. No odors or above background PID readings were noted at ECS-4. A soil boring was done at the former gasoline pump island. A PID reading of 1.6 ppm was noted in the soil sample from 5-7', no other above background readings or odors were observed so no monitor well was installed.
- On September 17, ECS-4 and -5, were sampled for volatile organic compounds (VOC) via EPA 8260 and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) via EPA 8100M; the other 3 wells were dry. No VOCs or TPH were detected in ECS-4. In ECS-5 benzene, toluene, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene, and MTBE were noted above Vermont Groundwater Enforcement Standards

Over



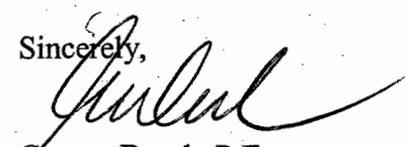
(VGES). Other compounds were also observed below VGES. A TPH level of 0.6 mg/L was also observed in this well. Two additional monitor wells were requested.

- Semi-annual, annual, and finally biennial groundwater monitoring was performed at the site from September 1998 to July 2006. This monitoring documented a steady decline in groundwater contamination down to below the VGES.
- Soils and groundwater near the former tank locations were identified as sensitive receptors. The air inside the site building was screened via PID and no VOC contamination was found. No other at risk sensitive receptors were identified. Residual contamination in the soil and groundwater associated with the UST removal was shown to be confined to the subject property in the general vicinity of the former UST locations.
- The subject building and area are served by a municipal water supply, which is not at risk of contamination from this site. No unacceptable risk to human health and the environment is present due to any residual contamination remaining in the ground from the removed USTs.
- The seven groundwater monitoring wells were properly closed to eliminate possible conduits for contaminant migration into the subsurface. This closure involved removal of the protective well cover, filling the wells with a grout material to prevent fluid migration in the borehole, and finishing to the surrounding grade.

Based on the above, the SMS is assigning this site a Site Management Activity Completed (SMAC) designation. This SMAC designation does not release Country News Distributors of any past or future liability associated with the petroleum contamination onsite. It does, however, mean that the SMS is not requesting any additional work in response to the 1998 UST removals.

Please feel free to call with any questions.

Sincerely,



George Desch, P.E.

Chief, Sites Management Section

CC: Brattleboro Selectboard  
Brattleboro Health Officer  
DEC Regional Office (via electronic mail)  
Fred Saussy, ECS (via electronic mail)

