

September 23, 2019

MSK Engineering & Design, Inc.  
150 Depot Street  
P.O. Box 139  
Bennington, VT 05201  
Attn: Mr. Jason Dolmetsch, P.E.

**RE: Town of Bennington Municipal Water System Remedial Expansion Phase II  
Preliminary Environmental Investigation (“Contracts 8 & 9”)  
Bennington, VT**

Dear Mr. Dolmetsch:

A Preliminary Environmental Investigation was conducted by Paul D.G. Miller (Miller) as part of the Town of Bennington Municipal Water System Remedial Expansion Phase II.

This Preliminary Environmental Investigation included: a review of land use history along the two (2) water line extension areas and the submittal of a brief report of land use history.

**Land Use History & Potential Sources of Contamination**

Land use history of the two (2) water line extension areas was researched by Miller. The areas researched include those outlined in the following two (2) sets of plans prepared by MSK Engineering and Design, Inc. of Bennington, VT: Town of Bennington Municipal Water System Remedial Expansion Phase II (Contract 8) – dated 8-22-19; and Town of Bennington Municipal Water System Remedial Expansion Phase II (Contract 9) – dated as “(Issue Date)”.

Research of the land use history was conducted through all of the following: interviews with current property owners; visual inspections of land use along each proposed water line extension; a review of pertinent Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC) records focusing on spills, underground and above ground storage tanks, hazardous waste sites, and hazardous waste usage (i.e. waste generators); a review of city directories produced by H.A. Manning Company for the years 1893 through 1967; a review of aerial photographs produced by USGS and USDA for the years 1951 through 2019; a review of historic topographic quadrangles produced by USGS for 1898, 1944, 1954, and 1997; a review of historic maps, including: the Map of Bennington (D.L. Miller & Company – 1894), the Birdseye View Map (L.R. Burleigh – 1887); the Birds Eye View of Bennington & Bennington Centre, Bennington County, VT (J.J. Stoner – 1877); the F.W. Beers & Company Atlas/Map of 1869, the Rice-Harwood Map of 1856; the Map of the Village of Bennington, VT (Presdee & Edwards – 1852); and the Map, Survey and History in Brief of the Town of Bennington, VT (Joseph Hinsdill – 1835); and a review of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for past commercial/industrial land use.

From a review of all these sources, it is apparent that the bulk of the properties (abutting or in close proximity to the proposed water line extensions) are currently of a residential usage and have had a history as either a residential or agricultural usage. The only commercial/industrial use in the study area is situated at the intersection of Chapel Road and North Branch Street (noted as “Robert Greene Inc.” and discussed below).

In addition to land use, Potential Sources of Contamination (PSOC) along the water line extensions were identified and then evaluated for their potential to impact the actual excavation areas. No PSOCs were noted along East Road within the study area.

The only PSOC identified at the north end of the Chapel Road area is:

- 1) Joseph J. & Nancy J. Juliano Property, 2865 Chapel Road (Contract 8 – Sheet Number C140)

The only PSOC identified at the south end of the Chapel Road area is:

- 1) Robert Greene Inc., 675 North Branch Street (Contract 9 – Sheet Number C154)

Miller has specialized knowledge of both of these PSOCs identified. Both have been investigated and have either been actively remediated or allowed to undergo natural passive remediation through oversight of the VT DEC. The degree and extent to which remnant contamination exists in the proposed main water line extension and service line areas is believed to be below applicable VT DEC standards or non-existent.

Various residential UST removals were noted in the water line extension areas, but none of these had resulted in any related petroleum release to the subsurface. Also, no land uses or activities were noted during the visual inspection which would require these properties to undergo further subsurface investigation.

### **Recommendation**

Based on the findings of the land use (current and past) review within the proposed water line extension areas (along with associated PSOCs), no further investigation of the water line extension areas (encompassing Contract 8 and Contract 9) is currently recommended. Any soil/groundwater contamination that is discovered during the excavation for the water line extensions will be handled as outlined in the Environmental Contingency Plan produced by Miller and dated June 20, 2017. An updated Environmental Contingency Plan specific for the Town of Bennington Municipal Water System Remedial Expansion Phase II is also recommended.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please contact me at (802) 440-1559 or (575) 644-6911. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul D.G. Miller". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Paul D.G. Miller  
Hydrogeologist