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In Step with Nature and the Great Outdoors



The lure of the great outdoors never let up its grip on Omya Geologist, Andy McIntosh. Andy was raised in Middlebury and graduated from Middlebury High School. He went to the city to study architecture and realized that he enjoyed the sciences much more. This, combined with his draw to the rural environment, set the course for his future. Andy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Earth and Planetary Science (Geology) from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. His graduate coursework in Glacial Geology was obtained at the University

of Maine in Orono. Andy then supplemented his education with a field research program in Juneau, Alaska. After running for the Vermont State Legislature and spending five years working for an environmental consulting/engineering firm, Andy brought his environmental expertise to Omya.

Andy has no ordinary desk job. No, his work allows him access to some of the most beautiful surroundings in the world, right here in our own back yard. As Quarry Manager for Omya's Vermont quarries since 1997, Andy monitors and supports the quality and quantity of stone feed for the plant by ensuring efficient quarrying processes through responsible environmental utilization and stewardship. This includes working with state agencies for permitting, water resource protection, land reclamation and public outreach. No two days are the same. Whether he is selecting and blending the right mix of quality stone, or giving a tour of the quarry to adults and students from elementary school through college, it is easy to see the enthusiasm and passion Andy has for his work.

Residents of Ripton, Andy, his wife Laura and their young son and daughter all share a love of the outdoors. Whether it is cross country skiing 80 km a day for two days in the Canadian Ski Marathon, hiking somewhere in the Appalachian Mountains, skiing the Catamount Cross Country Ski Trail that Andy has maintained for the past five years as Trail Chief, camping or playing Ultimate Frisbee, Andy and his family are indeed in step with and inspired by the great outdoors.

When asked about his job, Andy says, "I am lucky to have a position in the area where I grew up and doing what I enjoy".

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Liquefied Natural Gas Awareness Training

On June 27, 2012 Omya hosted a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Awareness Training session at the Pittsford Fire Station. Firefighters and First Responders from Brandon, Bellows Falls, Ludlow, Pittsford, Rutland Town and Rutland were on hand to learn from industry experts what LNG is, how it is transported and how it is handled.

Career Firefighter and Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy Instructor Norm Seymour, along with Safety specialists from Trans Gas and Vermont Gas, provided a comprehensive training that included examining a truck with a double walled (shelled) insulated design dedicated only for transporting LNG. Omya employees Brian Narkewicz, Safety Manager, Dennis Carroll, Environmental Manager, Mike Laurent, Past Environmental Manager & Pre-grind Area Manager and Doug Bradley, Area Manager Dryers and Packaging also attended.

Additional training will be hosted by Omya once the Certificate of Public Good from the Public Service Board is issued. For more information about Omya's Fuel Conversion Project please visit the OmyaInVermont website at: <http://www.OmyaInVermont.net>.




Verrill Facility
P.O. Box 10
Whipple Hollow Road
Florence, VT 05744



Calcium Carbonate [in nature, in life]

Calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) is a white solid – non-toxic, odorless, and virtually insoluble in water. Its high whiteness and purity, plus worldwide availability, makes calcium carbonate an ideal raw material in numerous industrial applications.

Paper manufactured today contains, on average, 20 percent calcium carbonate; art papers may contain as much as 50 percent. The mineral improves paper's whiteness, printability and gloss, as well as helps to conserve our forests: the more calcium carbonate there is in paper, the less cellulose from trees is needed.

Plastics may have a filler content of up to 70 percent. Depending on the application, calcium carbonate improves plastics' mechanical and thermal properties, and increases production output. Above all, it provides a substitute for valuable polymer raw materials made from oil – a real boon to the environment.

Natural calcium carbonate is one of the most important mineral extenders in paints and coatings. Its outstanding properties and potential for producing tailor made products make this natural filler an indispensable ingredient of numerous formulations.

Applications: cleansers, cosmetics, dental care, food industry, medicine, pharmaceuticals, wellness, agriculture, drinking water treatment, flue gas desulphurization, fodder production, forestry, lake liming adhesives, cardboard, ceramics, coatings, construction, glass, paints, paper, plaster, plastics, rubber, varnishes and much more.

State-of-the-art technology is used to manufacture calcium carbonate products that are tailor-made for a variety of applications.



Fuel Conversion Project Update – Efficiency and Economy

On April 20, 2012, Omya Inc. filed a Petition, with the Public Service Board ("Board") requesting a Certificate of Public Good for the construction and operation of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facility at its Verpol mineral processing operations in Florence, Vermont. The Verpol operations would utilize LNG to replace the No. 2 fuel oil that is currently used for heating and drying in Omya's production process.

On May 23, 2012, the Board (hearing officer) and the Department of Public Service (DPS) established a schedule for the proceeding. Per the agreed schedule, the Board held a public hearing on June 13 at the Pittsford Town Offices. No comments were received at the meeting and no party filed a motion to intervene with the Board within the June 25, 2012 deadline. The Town of Pittsford Planning Commission (PPC) and the Rutland Regional Commission have reviewed the project and have concluded that it will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region. Furthermore, the PPC stated "It is evident that there is a net positive environmental impact as well as an economic benefit to the town."

The DPS and its experts submitted their testimony to the Board on July 20 (per the Board's schedule). A stipulation between Omya Inc. and the Vermont Department of Public Service (the only intervening party) was submitted on August 21 to the Board outlining an agreed proposal for decision. Omya has requested an expeditious review and approval of the Petition. The Company is hopeful a Certificate of Public Good can be issued by the Board within calendar year 2012 so that the project may be constructed and the benefits commence as soon as practicable.

Omya anticipates construction will begin in early 2013.

The project will result in tangible environmental benefits. When compared to No. 2 fuel oil, the use of natural gas will reduce overall EPA criteria pollutants by approximately 38% and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by approximately 26%.

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what's new

Farewell

The past four years that I've been in Vermont as Omya's Verpol Plant Manager have been a wonderful experience for me both professionally and personally. It's amazing how the time has flown by so quickly. By the time this publication is issued, I will have already relocated back to Europe to take on new responsibilities within Omya Group Operations, but I wanted to take this opportunity to bid you farewell.



As of August 1, 2012 Jim Stewart was assigned as the Verpol Plant Manager. Jim has vast experience working within Omya operations. His knowledge of the area and the company will facilitate a smooth transition of the role to him. I am pleased and convinced that, with your help, he will continue the good work and progress that has been accomplished over the years together.

I would like to thank all of the community members and my operational team for your excellent support and for welcoming me from day one. It has been a pleasure and a great learning experience to be in Vermont with you. I will not forget this beautiful state where I really felt at home, or the wonderful people I have met. My experiences here will forever be part of me.

Thank you for this opportunity to work with all of you.

En espérant croiser votre chemin de nouveau, très sincèrement.
[Hoping our paths will cross again – Sincerely,]

Pierre Masuy
pierre.masuy@omya.com

Omya Welcomes New Plant Manager

I am very happy to be back at the Verpol Plant and see many old friends and meet new friends. I look forward to working with our employees and the community.

Jim Stewart



Jim began his career with Vermont Marble and White Pigment Corporation in September 1972. During his tenure he has served in many roles including:

Plant Manager, Project Manager/Plant Manager at the Lopburi, Thailand facility, Packaging/Shipping Manager, and most recently as the Operations Manager-Dry Plants North America in California and Ohio.

Jim and his wife, Joanne, are both Vermont natives. They live in Weybridge, Vermont and have two children and a granddaughter living in New England. They are both very glad to return home after five years away.

Our customers appreciate our consistent quality, technical expertise, and service. At Omya we continue to take seriously our responsibility to continue this great legacy. In addition, we work hard to find new products and services that will continue to differentiate us from the competition in order to keep our business strong in Vermont.

I am grateful to know many of you at Verpol and in the community, and I am excited to meet and talk with everyone. During my tenure with Omya I have had the opportunity to work in various positions and in a number of different locations worldwide. I have learned; however, that I am a plant guy and am thrilled to be back at a plant and in Vermont.

I pledge to continue to support all of the good work that is being done. We will continue to operate Verpol in a safe and responsible manner producing a quality product for our customers while upholding our commitment to partnering with and being responsive to our community and neighbors.

My door is always open and I encourage you to contact me directly with questions about Omya, our operations or our partnership with the community. I can be reached at 770-7617.

Best Regards,
Jim Stewart
jim.stewart@omya.com

recent & upcoming events

May 4

Omya Employees Green Up Day*

May 5

Town of Pittsford & Omya Green Up Day*

May 21-24

Biannual Water Monitoring Event (includes Quarterly Surface Water Monitoring)

June 7

Community Issue Team Meeting

June 10

The heARTS of Rutland Unveiling Event*

June 28

American Red Cross Blood Drive – Lothrop Elementary*

July 14

On the Rocks Concert, 7-9 PM, Pittsford Recreation Area*

October 4

Community Issue Team Meeting

October 8-12

Biannual Water Monitoring Event (includes Quarterly Surface Water Monitoring)

November 2

The heARTS of Rutland Auction at the Paramount*

*Omya is a sponsor of this event

Omya Gives Back

At Omya we feel it's our civic responsibility to support local efforts that benefit our community and neighbors. In the past six months we have made donations to the following organizations and community groups:

Civic Fundraisers

Brandon Library
heARTS of Rutland
Lakes Region Independent Ryders
Maclure Library
Middlebury Rotary
Rutland County Humane Society
Rutland Cutting Edge Hockey
VFW- Post 648 (Loyalty Day Parade)

Youth Events

Black Ice Hockey
Camp Thorpe
Cub Scout Pack 44
Danby Little League
Encore Theatre
Lady Celtics – AAU Basketball
LEAP – Lothrop Enrichment After School Program
Middlebury Union High School – Softball
Mill River – Project Graduation
Neshobe Sportsman Club
Otter Valley – Baseball
Otter Valley – Project Graduation
Pittsford Pack 110
Proctor Youth League
Project Currier
Rutland Amateur Hockey League
Rutland Eagle Special Olympics
Rutland Intermediate School
Rutland Ishidoriya Student Exchange
Tri-Town Soccer Camp
Vermont 4-H Horse Show
VT State Science & Math

Parent Teacher Organization – Association (PTO – PTA)

Benson Village School
Castleton Hubbardartons Schools
Rutland Town PTO
West Rutland Booster Club

Fundraiser Walks & Runs

Face off Against Breast Cancer
Hannah's Hope
Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT)
Rutland County Relay for Life

Community Events

Addison County Field Days
Brandon Independence Celebration
Brandon Safety Day
Castleton Concert on the Green
Castleton Seniors
Loretto Home
Pittsford Historical Society
Pittsford Recreation Area Concert Series
Proctor Fall Festival
Rutland Area Farm & Food Link
Rutland Area Vehicle Enthusiasts
Rutland Natural Resources
Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board
Town of West Rutland – Summer Concert Series

Donation requests can be made on-line at:

<http://www.OmyaInVermont.net/community/donations/>

Hogback Quarry Year-round Operations Approved



Earlier this year, Omya was issued amendments to their Act 250 permit by both the State of Vermont and Town of Pittsford allowing the year-round operation of its Hogback Quarry in Florence, Vermont.

Year-round operation will enable the operator, Florence Crushed Stone, Inc., to conduct more efficient and effective quarry operations, utilize quarry equipment more efficiently than current seasonal operations affords, and provide more consistent and stable employment to its employees.

The permit amendments allow for an additional portable screening unit and a second fixed screening plant to the existing operation thereby enabling greater use of the quarried material that is not suitable for feed stone to Omya's Verpol Facility. The quarrying operation is now permitted to process additional tons be used as Verpol feed and the remainder for aggregate for area road construction or other like uses.

The permit also authorizes construction of a new reclamation area north of the existing site. It will be used for placement of rock that does not meet Omya's feed stone quality requirements, aggregate quality requirements, or is in surplus of local aggregate needs

End Uses for Tailings Gaining Momentum

Over the past several years, Omya, with the encouragement of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), has been pursuing markets for Verpol's tailings. Tailings are a mineral mixture byproduct of Omya's calcium carbonate products.

In 2011, Omya's tailings product, Omya® SPS-FL, met the Vermont State requirements for use at certified landfills as daily and intermediate cover material. Landfills use the tailings to cover compacted solid wastes in order to control fire, disease vectors and odors, prevent blowing litter, discourage scavenging by animals, extract gas for electricity generation, and to assure an aesthetic appearance.

The State has also authorized the use of Omya® SPS-FL for intermediate cover on the inactive slopes of waste-filled areas (cells) to prevent intrusion of atmosphere into their landfill gas collection systems, while serving as a medium for vegetative growth to prevent erosion. Omya® SPS-FL offers landfills a cost-effective alternative to other earthen materials or polymer (plastic) materials.

This summer, Omya submitted an "Application for Registration of Lime & Limestone" to use tailings as an agricultural liming material. The Omya material, Agrocab-FL, has beneficial value as a soil amendment with no adverse impacts. The product reacts significantly faster due to its smaller particle size than traditional agricultural liming materials to achieve the desired pH level in the farm soil to which it is applied. Recently, Omya was also awarded a Certification of Registration to use Agrocab-FL as a commercial lime. Due to its beneficial attributes and cost competitiveness, the agricultural community is excited and anxious to begin using our product during this year's fall liming season. Omya has received a Certificate of Registration to use Agrocab-FL as a liming material in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.



How Noisy is Noise?

Did you know that the sound of a car passing by 10 feet away measures 70 decibels? Or that the sounds of a normal conversation are 55 decibels when it is 3 feet away?

A decibel (dB) is the unit used to measure the degree of loudness. It is objective, with a mathematical definition using the sound waves. It is the perception of sound that catches your attention. In the examples above, the difference between normal conversation and the car is 15 decibels; however, the car may be perceived to be about 2 times as loud! Below are the decibel measures of other various sounds we encounter.

- Near total silence - 0 dB
- A whisper - 15 dB
- Moderate rainfall – 50 dB
- A vacuum cleaner – 70 dB
- A lawnmower - 90 dB
- A car horn - 110 dB
- A rock concert or a jet engine - 120 dB
- A gunshot or firecracker - 140 dB

Omya has always measured the noise levels in and around our facility. Areas within the plant are well insulated for noise but some areas still require that hearing protection be worn as mandated by the Federal Mine Safety

and Health Administration (MSHA). Outside of the plant, Vermont's Act 250 regulates plant noise with respect to the property line and in correlation with acceptable range standards of human hearing. That means the decibel rating in our permit was weighted to account more for the normal frequency range of our hearing and less for the higher and lower frequency ranges. Our Act 250 permit states that we not generate noise in excess of 70 decibels.

In addition to Act 250, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Levels Document proposes a day-night noise average of less than or equal to 55 decibels.

Since 2005, over a thousand hours of noise data collected by both external acoustic consultants and trained Omya staff shows the facility is well within its Act 250 Permit requirements for noise and is doing well to meet the EPA proposed target. In an ongoing commitment to noise mitigation, Omya monitors its noise level and works closely with neighbors in identifying and reducing noise impacts. To date we have implemented improvements such as the installation of multiple silencers, sound absorbing panels and rooftop dampers at various locations onsite. Collaboration between Omya and neighbors will continue to ensure that reasonable noise mitigation solutions are applied as appropriate.

Middlebury Rail Spur

As a result of the uncertainty in the marketplace, a weak economy and an increase in project costs, Omya will no longer pursue the development of the 3.3 mile-long rail project referred to as the Middlebury Rail Spur. The proposed project was to have created a new railroad called the Otter Creek Railroad. The rail line would have originated at Omya's Middlebury Quarry, extending west over the flood plain and Otter Creek and connect to the Vermont Rail System's main rail line between Burlington and Rutland.

Environmental Manager Position Changes



Dennis Carroll (L) and Mike Laurent (R)

Mike Laurent, Environmental Manager and Area Pre-grind Manager, has done an exemplary job at holding down two positions for several years now. Unfortunately, the demands of each role have expanded and, as a result, over the next several months, Mike will focus his efforts to the Pre-grind Area and transition the Environmental responsibilities to Dennis Carroll, who was hired in February as Environmental Manager.

In his role, Dennis will direct all environmental projects at the plant, ensure that plant operations are in full compliance with all applicable environmental regulatory requirements including permit conditions and assist with community outreach efforts. Dennis has over nine years of environmental experience in private, commercial, state and federal settings. He holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Geography with a focus on Environmental Studies from Florida State University.

Mike, as Pre-grind Area Manager, is responsible for managing the operation and mechanical / electrical maintenance of the coarse grinding process at Verpol. He will continue to provide his environmental expertise for the Fuel Conversion Project and the Tailings Management Facility. Mike has been with Omya since 2005.

contact us

Do you have a comment or suggestion? We want to know.

802-770-7644

The Omya Community Feedback Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also reach us through our website at www.OmyaInVermont.net. Simply click on "Contact" and select any one of the contacts listed or fill out the on-line comment form at the bottom of the page.

All calls and website inquiries will be returned by 5:00 p.m. on the next regular business day.

The heARTs of Rutland! Community Art Project

The heARTs of Rutland! community street art project began as an idea from area artists to create a sense of vibrancy and excitement about what the people and the Rutland region have to offer. After the Hurricane Irene disaster, this idea evolved into a project to showcase the strength and resolve of how our people, businesses and community come together showing heart in so many ways. Businesses, including Omya as the presenting sponsor, and individuals have sponsored local talented artists to paint and embellish 30, three-dimensional, four foot fiberglass hearts with amazing designs of all kinds.

The hearts are on display throughout the Rutland region for all to see and enjoy until the live auction of the hearts on Friday, November 2, 2012. The auction will be held at the Paramount Theatre in Downtown Rutland starting with a preview at 5:30 p.m. Save the date on your calendar and come place a bid, mingle with friends or simply enjoy the wonderful one of a kind art on display!

Funds raised through this project benefit Rutland region victims of disaster and children's art education.



The Heart of Wisdom (pictured at left) by Artist Christine Townsend, is on display outside the Maclure Library in Pittsford. The library provides maps listing the locations of the other hearts on display throughout the region.

Omya Academic Scholarship 2012

Omya announces the recipients of its 2012 Academic Scholarship Program. Omya designed the scholarship program to offer incentives for the development of Vermont's future workforce and to encourage area students to pursue degrees in math and science - skills that translate into well-paying careers. Students chosen for the scholarship awards possess a high level of academic ability and are well-rounded, exceptional individuals.

A total of \$10,000 dollars in scholarships was awarded to the following recipients:

- **Rachel Allen** - Woodstock Union High School
- **Celeste Hanna** - Rutland High School
- **Kristopher Holmquist** - Rutland High School
- **Cody Randall** - Otter Valley Union High School
- **Rachel Ray** - Rutland High School
- **Griffin Thomas** - Woodstock Union High School

We at Omya extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to each of our 2012 Scholarship recipients and to all area high school graduates!



For more information about Omya's North American and International Operations visit www.omya-na.com and www.omya.com.