

what's inside

Omya's Hogback Quarry Applies for Permit

Achieving Zero Harm: What's New in Omya Safety

Marble Blocks Donated for Veterans Monument

Salisbury's Bristol Landfill Project Demonstrates Omya's Environmental Stewardship

Omya Donates Beaver Pond, Land to Town of Proctor

20 Years and Still Going Strong

LNG Conversion: Changing the Landscape for Omya and the Environment

Omya Health & Wellness Program Repeats an Award-Winning Year



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



Leaders of Tomorrow

When I opened up our company newsletter and saw an article with the headline "Leaders of Tomorrow," I was intrigued. As the HR Manager for Vermont, I was curious to see what recruiting and/or development angle the article was focused towards. The article shared that our Leaders and Executive Board want to intensify dialogue with our younger generation of professionals. They were inviting employees to give their feedback. They want to hear from their employees! They want to know how to ensure that young professionals stay connected to their employer. How awesome is that?



Twenty employees from around the world and all regions of Omya were invited to attend a multi-day event visiting different plants, quarries and engineering facilities, including a day spent at Omya headquarters in Oftringen, Switzerland. This was a chance for these young professionals to not only expand their networking within Omya but to see how other plants and facilities operate in comparison to Verpol.

Ryan Faber, Project Engineer at the Vermont Verpol site, applied and was selected to attend the event in March 2016. Part of the application required Ryan to explain why he should be selected. "It was a great opportunity" he told me. "It would have been pretty disappointing, knowing now the experience that I had, if I didn't write the article."

Ryan explained to me that before arriving each participant provided their resume. The Omya Executive Board (OEB) had done their homework and would address the individuals throughout their visit with something personal learned from the resume, reassuring that the visit was valued and they were being recognized individually as well as collaboratively.

The main workshop brought together 20 young professional employees from operations (folks who work at the mining facilities) and administration. The purpose of having the employees come together as a group was to prepare a presentation to share their ideas. The employees were split into four groups with three sessions to focus on the theme of, "What makes a good employer." Each of these four groups worked on their idea throughout the evening to then provide a presentation to the OEB the following day.

"I thought it was an incredible feeling to be able to share ideas with such successful personnel within Omya," said Ryan. "However, it was not just a one-way interaction of young professionals shooting out our wish lists for the company. The OEB was truly interested and engaged in what everybody had to say, and I think that shows how open they truly are to ideas."

Omya asked for feedback from their "Leaders of Tomorrow". Thank you Ryan for taking the opportunity and sharing your ideas with our Leaders of Today!

September Sees Omya's 14th Annual Open House



Omya is excited again this year to host our free Open House at the Middlebury Quarry on Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Never been? Whether you have attended one or all of our 13 Middlebury Quarry Open Houses, there is always something new to see! We welcome all ages for a behind-the-scenes look at what goes on at the open-pit quarry. Hop on one of four buses and take a ride into the quarry while expert guides share details and answer questions. Visitors will have an opportunity to get off the bus and take an up close look at geological formations and scout the area for their own marble souvenirs. Are you interested in drilling equipment or blasting and quarrying processing? Omya geologists will be on-hand to provide an overview on the history and explain how natural resources are used and benefit the environment.

There is plenty to see above the quarry as well. Giant trucks, loaders and other quarry equipment will be on display and a marble sand pile complete with toy trucks and shovels is always a favorite spot for children. Use a microscope and learn about rocks and minerals from Omya mineralogists, geologists and chemists. View an exhibit showing how the extracted marble is crushed and milled at Omya's Verpol facility in Florence, VT for use in thousands of diverse applications and products consumers use every day.

Omya employees from every facet of the mineral processing business, along with our contractors from Shelburne Limestone Corporation (SLC) and Casella Construction will be on hand to greet visitors – rain or shine.

Depending on the weather, the gravel covered quarry ground can rival mud-season like conditions so appropriate footwear is recommended. There will be a handicapped accessible tour bus and a complimentary lunch will be served.

For more information about the Quarry Open House contact Jill Blanchard at 802-770-7500 or jill.blanchard@omya.com.



Omya's Hogback Quarry Applies for Permit

On April 13, 2016, Omya, Inc. conducted a test blast at its Hogback Quarry for the District #1 Environmental Commission and interested members of the public. The test was in support of Omya's application to amend its Act 250 permit for the quarry. The test blast was successful in demonstrating that, using new technology, larger blasts can be conducted at the quarry while staying well within existing permit limits. It also gave observers an opportunity to "see and feel" how the new technology helps control blasts.



Specifically, Omya is requesting to increase the size of quarry blasts and to extend quarry operating hours from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. These changes, if granted, will allow Omya to operate more efficiently, produce a higher quality product and meet increasing customer demands. The changes will also allow Omya to meet the growing demand from local municipalities and other customers for construction aggregate and specialized products like winter sand.

Since last summer, Omya has been using a state-of-the-art electronic blasting technology. We began using the new blasting technology to address concerns of some of our customers who have found tiny amounts of plastic blasting contaminants in the ground calcium carbonate produced at the Verpol Facility. Instead of plastic tubing that the old technology used to connect the individual detonators, the new technology uses metal wires, which can be removed with magnets at the front end of our processing operation, thereby improving the overall quality of our feed stone and, consequently, of our finished products.

Initially driven by the need to improve product quality, the use of state-of-the-art electronic blasting technology has other advantages as well. Within a single blast there typically are dozens of individual detonations, but because each goes off within milliseconds of each other, the blast is experienced as a single event. The new electronic detonators allow us to set the timing of each individual detonation with such precision that we can use the ground vibration waves from each detonation within a blast to partially cancel out the ground vibration waves from the combined detonations within the larger blast, thereby minimizing the blast's overall vibration impact to neighbors around the Quarry – much the same way that noise canceling headphones reduce noise by canceling sound waves. This means that we can conduct larger blasts when demand and circumstances warrant while still maintaining our historic, low levels of ground vibration and air overpressure.

The existing Act 250 permit limitations, however, are preventing us from taking full advantage of the new technology, as oftentimes ground vibrations can be further minimized by using higher explosive weights and/or more explosives per delay than are currently authorized. Although minimizing ground vibrations by increasing explosive weight may seem counterintuitive, we have collected considerable data from all blasts at the Quarry, including from larger blasts, using this new technology conducted at the Hogback Quarry during the Tropical Storm Irene recovery effort (during which time permit restrictions were temporarily lifted). This data, coupled with data from the April test blast, confirm that this technology works to minimize ground vibrations for blasts of relatively high explosive weight.

Following the test blast, the Act 250 District Commission conducted a site visit and convened a public hearing on April 14, 2016. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Commission recessed the proceeding pending submittal of additional information from the applicant and parties or interested persons.

All additional information requested and any associated rebuttal or responses were due by the end of May. Upon review, the Commission will issue a final decision including proposed findings and conclusions and/or permit conditions in June.

Omya's Verpol Facility is located in Florence, Town of Pittsford, Vermont, on approximately 385 acres and employs 150 people. The Verpol Facility produces fine ground calcium carbonate from marble ore. The Hogback Quarry is located directly north of the Verpol Facility. In addition to producing feed stone to the Verpol Facility, the Hogback Quarry supplies a growing array of aggregate products to a variety of public and private customers. For more information, please contact Michael Laurent at (802) 770-7568.

The company provides a wide range of product solutions that contribute to its customers' competitiveness and productivity in multiple industries such as Construction, Printing & Writing, Technical Polymers, Packaging, Food, Personal & Home Care, Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture and Forestry, Water and Energy.

what's new

I have experienced three winters in Vermont since moving here from Arizona. I was told that the first two winters, 2013 and 2014, were very unusual for Vermont and pretty harsh in comparison with normal winters.

Though I haven't asked, I must surmise from all the comments I hear that the winter of 2015 was also pretty exceptional – but for a very different reason. The majority of these comments have concerned the lack of snow and very little is said about the subsequent challenges that come with lots of snow. We all know, however, that the lack of snow is also a lost opportunity for various businesses to capitalize on the many visitors and travelers we have in Vermont in a snowy, picturesque winter year.



For us at Omya this winter has been very good. The logistical challenges we faced during the winter of 2014 have all but been forgotten. Our customers are happy that their needs have been met with on-time shipment and deliveries. We have continued operating on a level that has kept us all productive and allowed us to concentrate on making our process more efficient. Omya continues to play an integral part in our community and our employees continue to participate in and represent various causes and organizations that are very important to the quality of life in our neck of the woods.

Omya is expecting 2016 to be very similar to 2015. We will continue to work on projects which maintain our competitiveness and support our community wherever possible. We are always looking at opportunities to improve our operations. We are especially sensitive to increases in costs of energy; we continue to review alternative, renewable solar power energy as well as various programs offered by our electrical power partners to limit the pressure on energy costs.

We also continue to work on developing a market for our flotation product, called SPS. Great successes have been seen in capping landfills, supplying farmers with material for adjusting the quality of the soil in their fields. We continue to work with several partners to develop viable end uses that will benefit our environment and add value to our operation.

At Omya we have been able to maintain our good safety record and are constantly evolving a culture of safety to meet the higher goal of looking out for and caring about each other. We do not want to see anybody get hurt at work and we continue to strive for zero injuries each year. For 2016 this will be no different.

I look forward to seeing what 2016 will bring. I thank you for all the feedback we get after these newsletters are circulated – we value your opinion and encourage you to let us know if there was something you feel we need to include in these bi-annual newsletters. Our goal is to let you know what we are doing and keep our newsletters relevant and interesting at the same time.

Thank you for all the support and we all wish you a very pleasant and productive summer.

Best Regards,

Wayne Wilmans
wayne.wilmans@omya.com

Achieving Zero Harm: What's New in Omya Safety

Omya is consistently focused on improving safety and achieving its zero harm goal. We have many tools and programs for improving our safety performance but without sharpening these tools and looking for ways to improve the programs, our safety progress will stall.

In an effort for continuous improvement we have improved our level of personal protective equipment (PPE) by requiring high visibility clothing when working on site. This change will increase the visibility of our employees and contractors, helping to ensure they are kept out of harm's way.



Our safety programs here at Verpol meet, and in most cases exceed, the requirements of the Mining Safety & Health Administration (MSHA). Representatives from MSHA, a division under the United States Department of Labor for mining sites, visit our site and perform unannounced safety

inspections twice a year. These inspections are valuable as they provide us with indicators on how well our safety programs are performing.

In another step towards continuous improvement, our Safety Task Force team, which is made up of employees from each department/area, are performing "mock" MSHA inspections periodically throughout the year. This added focus to safety compliance is another building block towards our goal.

By always paying attention to safety and continuously improving our programs, we are inching our way closer to reaching zero harm.

Marble Blocks Donated for Veterans Monument

Living in the Town of Pittsford you realize there isn't a whole lot missing - there are general stores, restaurants, industry, small businesses and museums. But what about a veterans monument? While the glass plaque located in the Town Hall already honors WWII veterans, Hank Pelky, along with local select board members, envisioned a memorial honoring all veterans.



The select board wanted to keep the project local and agreed that marble would be the best fit as it is indigenous to the area and has been an economic mainstay for many years. Florence, Proctor, West Rutland, Wallingford and Danby were homes to many marble quarries. Vermont marble has been used all over the world for buildings, sculptures, and monuments, specifically in Washington DC and at the Arlington Cemetery.

After discussions with community members, Hank spoke with Ollie Danforth, who told him about the marble blocks located on Fire Hill Road. Ollie had originally planned to use the blocks for a job in 1985 but the job fell through.

It is believed that more than 70 years ago the blocks were on their way from the Blue Quarry to the marble finishing mill (located in Florence) when the train derailed, leaving them on Fire Hill Road ever since.

With the donation of the blocks from Omya's then-plant manager Jim Stewart and permission to move the blocks from land owner Liz Willis, the project was underway – but not without the help of Dave Markowski. Markowski Excavating donated its time and equipment to move and transport the sizable blocks to Gawet Marble, where the work will begin to transform the marble into the veterans' monument. Brent Wilson, from Proctor Marble, will be doing the finish work, lettering and overseeing the installation of the components.

Names will be gathered by the Pittsford Historical Society and the monument will be placed outside the Pittsford Town office, with a monument celebration planned for Veteran's Day on Friday, November 11, 2016.

For more information, including how to donate, please contact a member of the monument committee: Hank Pelkey (Chair), Tom Hooker (Vice Chair), Dave Trombley, John Haverstock or Oliver Danforth.

Salisbury's Bristol Landfill Project Demonstrates Omya's Environmental Stewardship

Omya's dedication to the environment continues to improve the communities in which it serves.

Last year the Town of Salisbury received approval from the State of Vermont to use Omya's flotation product, SPS, as cover material at their unlined landfill. Since then, much work has been done by many to make this happen and the partnership has been considered a great success by all involved.



The following article both highlights and illustrates Omya's environmental commitment and originally ran in the November 9, 2015, edition of the *Addison Independent*.

Bristol Landfill Capped and Closed

(Reprinted from the Addison Independent)

"It's these beautiful, undulating rolling hills. If you'd told me before, that this is what it was going to look like, I never would have believed you."

— Town Administrator Therese Kirby

By GAEN MURPHREE

BRISTOL — "It was a dump and now it's beautiful," said Bristol Town Administrator Therese Kirby last week, looking across the site of the former Bristol landfill.

And indeed it is.

What last July was truly mountains of trash is now covered in layers of dirt, sculpted to fit seamlessly into the surrounding landscape and capped with acres of marble dust, an Omya byproduct that's often marketed as Agrocarb and used as a soil enhancement. On top of that chalky substance, which doubles as both cap and topsoil, grass seed has been sprayed on and anchored in acres of jute matting.

Standing at the top of the southernmost slope and looking across the site to where the Hogback Mountains rise gently on the horizon, it's easy to imagine that once the grass grows and things go a bit wild, the only visible sign that this was once a landfill will be the four ventilation pipes placed around the six-acre site.

Work to close the Bristol landfill at the west end of Pine Street has been carried out by Green Mountain Engineering and by Casella Construction for the past three months.

Back in July, Casella began trucking the 36,000 tons of the Omya capping material from Florence to Bristol to get the project jump-started. Since the landfill closed for good in early August, a crew of four to five workers has been at the site full-time, working bulldozers, excavators and loaders and trucks to change trash mountains, week by week, into what looks just like a typical Vermont hillside.

Green Mountain Engineering's role has been to visit the site weekly and make sure that work progresses according to state specs.

"The town of Bristol could not have done this without the expertise of Casella Construction and Green Mountain Engineering," said Kirby. "We just could not have done it. And it's turned out to be this amazing project. When people see it, I think they're just going to be blown away to look at it and remember when they were bringing their trash. Now it's these beautiful, undulating rolling hills. If you'd told me before, that this is what it was going to look like, I never would have believed you."

Kirby repeatedly emphasized how instrumental both Green Mountain Engineering and Casella Construction have been to the project's success — both in terms of final results and in coming in far under budget.

Original cost estimates had put closing the landfill at \$1.5 million. But working with Omya and Casella, the town was able to cut project costs by close to half. Bristol resident and Omya employee Michael Laurent told the town about the quarrying byproduct, which had already been used successfully to cap landfills, and Omya agreed to provide the \$400,000 worth of material for free. Casella offered additional savings because it was already trucking for Omya.

Kirby said the town especially benefited from John Casella's expertise in working with state agencies on the landfill closure.

"John was really active in the beginning in going to state meetings and coming with us and trying to figure out how could we do this," said Kirby. "So it was really amazing to have this partner from the get go. John said, 'Hey, we just want to see if we can help,' and they did help."

Joe Casella (he and his cousin work together on different aspects of the Casella Construction business) explained that part of the secret behind how flawlessly the site has been re-sculpted was the company's use of state-of-the-art technology that keeps the bulldozers on track with the engineers' grading plans by using a GPS system.

The final step in closing Bristol's landfill will be to obtain the promised funds from the state. Last spring, when Bristol was contemplating bringing in more trash from elsewhere as a way to raise badly needed funds to close the landfill, the Shumlin administration put the kibosh on that idea. Instead, state officials negotiated with the town to close the landfill in exchange for a promise of up to \$180,000 from the 2016 Capital Budget to help meet expenses.

As this article goes to press, total costs for closing the landfill are figured to be \$747,819, and the town has in hand \$636,000 to meet those costs. That leaves \$111,819 left to pay, give or take a few outstanding invoices.

Kirby said she intends to work diligently to make sure that legislators in 2016 vote a budget that turns the administration's 2015 promise to Bristol into real dollars and cents.

Reporter Gaen Murphree is at gaenm@addisonindependent.com.

Omya Donates Beaver Pond, Land to Town of Proctor



On March 23, 2016, Omya donated the Beaver Pond and its surrounding 38 acres of land and 11 acres of water to the Town of Proctor, as the Town had expressed an interest in the property with hopes of bringing it back to its historical use as a recreational area for residents of Proctor. Although Beaver Pond is largely undeveloped, there is a small dam and beach with public access for swimming and boating and the area is a popular fishing spot for locals.

As the property was not actively used by Omya, we thought it was best to gift the property to the Town of Proctor along with funding for property improvements and enhancements. With the town taking over ownership of Beaver Pond and the surrounding land, it will ensure the friends and families of the community will be able to enjoy this recreational resource for years to come.

20 Years and Still Going Strong



Omya is a proud supporter of United Way, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping those in our community by providing funding for 32 health and human service organizations which serve over 25,000 people throughout the local region. For the past 20 years Omya has shown its dedication in supporting United Way by raising over \$480,000 through employee and company contributions. Each year

Omya employees organize a campaign which promotes United Way and educates employees to what the organization is all about. Omya was excited to receive the 2015 Business of the Year award recognizing Omya's support throughout the years.

Omya employees also celebrated 20 years of Green Up - an annual tradition at the Verpol plant taking place one day prior to the statewide event. Omya takes pride in giving back to its community in a variety of ways and one way is by helping to keep our roadsides clean and trash free. Each year employees team up in groups to cover the surrounding roads which lead into the plant. Omya provides employees with safety gear and plenty of drinks for hydration and the event concludes with a lunch for all employees to enjoy. Omya also supported the statewide event and teamed up with the Town of Pittsford for the town-wide Green Up day that took place on May 7. Omya was happy to provide an extra dumpster along with a light lunch.

The winning Omya Green Up slogan this year is... **"Keep it GREEN with the Omya Team 2016."** Thank you Jack Czarnecki! Every year Omya employees are given the opportunity to submit Green Up slogans and employees vote for their favorite. We were excited to have 31 entries this year! The winner's name and slogan are printed on t-shirts that all employees get on Green Up day and the winner also receives a \$25 gift card and - of course - bragging rights! Thank you to all who entered a slogan and took the time to vote.

LNG Conversion: Changing the Landscape for Omya and the Environment

As you may be aware by now, Omya has completed the conversion from fuel oil to natural gas, stored on site in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). Omya is now utilizing natural gas as the primary fuel source for its Florence plant as well as for hauling ore between the Middlebury quarry and the plant.

The plant operation has been primarily using natural gas since early 2014, while the LNG-fueled ore haul trucks came online in October, 2014. Last year (2015) marked the 1st full calendar year of utilizing natural gas and, looking back over the year, the natural gas has provided not only financial benefits but environmental benefits as well. These environmental benefits have already begun to be seen in major ways, as operation of the Casella Construction LNG haul trucks has resulted in a 15% reduction in CO2 emissions over their previous diesel counterparts. Within the plant itself, a 27% reduction in CO2 emissions was realized in 2015 alone.

The plant production and maintenance areas have begun to reap these benefits as well. The installation of the natural gas facility provided the opportunity to upgrade equipment and control systems and adopt the latest combustion technology. The newest safety standards were also implemented to complement the new fuel source. Retaining the ability to operate on either natural gas or fuel oil has provided the plant increased reliability and production uptime while allowing flexibility to utilize either gas or oil based on pricing. Due to the cleanliness of the natural gas combustion, maintenance activities have also been reduced as the equipment is undergoing less wear and tear.

Overall, the natural gas conversion project with its accompanying plant upgrades have provided a more reliable and cost effective system. It's a shining example of how good business can go hand in hand with good safety and environmental stewardship.

contact us

Do you have a comment or suggestion? We'd love to know.

Call our Community Feedback Line at 802-770-7644 with any issues, comments or questions you may have - and we'll listen.

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 online 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. We look forward to hearing from you.

Omya Health & Wellness Program Repeats an Award-Winning Year



Omya's Health & Wellness program was once again recognized by the Vermont Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. On March 30, 2016, Omya received the 2015 Governor's Excellence in Worksite Wellness Award. The award is traditionally given to Vermont companies which have implemented wellness programs within their organizations that promote healthy lifestyles and work to improve overall health.

Omya's wellness program offers employees a series of informational sessions on health topics such as disease awareness, preventative care, retirement planning and much more. Throughout the year employees get involved in physical activity challenges, get flu vaccinations, enjoy vegetables from the employee garden and take part in on-site biometric screenings.

Interested in a Tour?



You and your organization are cordially invited to visit our facility and see what we do. Schedule a private tour or come as a group (school groups fourth grade and higher are welcome). See how our highly skilled employees use state-of-the-art processes to produce high-quality calcium carbonate products which are used in thousands of consumer applications including diapers, paper, paint, plastics, duct tape, vinyl siding, carpet, PVC pipe and more!

The Verpol plant is the largest of the Omya operations in the United States and is the third largest Omya plant in the world. Here, Omya quarries marble which then is ground, milled, and purified to produce a finely ground calcium carbonate.

For further information, please contact Jill Blanchard

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