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



people at Omya



John Schell

Greetings, I'm John Schell and I am thoroughly excited for the opportunity to join the Verpol team in 2015 as assistant plant manager.

I bring 21 years of experience in wet ground calcium carbonate processing from a production facility located in Kimberly, Wisconsin. My roles have increased in responsibility over the years – I began in quality assurance/production before moving to a production supervisory role. From there I advanced to the plant manager position where I have served for the last 13 years. I am ingrained with traditional

values which align quite well with the Omya set of core values, and that only enhances my enthusiasm.

I am proud of the Kimberly plants' historical safety record. Extensive work and increased awareness is both critical and necessary to the success of any safety program. The open communication developed between employees and management, along with the commitment to "watch out for each other," enabled the plant to achieve zero MSHA citations over a four and a half year period (10 inspections) and as a result our work place injuries became nearly non-existent.

Customer focus has also been one of my top priorities. Overall, the Kimberly plant has been an extremely reliable plant. The high level of attention to detail and commitment of personnel to ensure quality has gone a long way toward building great relationships with customers.

My wife Linda and I have been happily married for twenty-seven years. We have two children. Our son finished his Bachelor's Degree and is currently chasing dreams while living in Los Angeles; our daughter has one year remaining to finish her degree at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, where she is pursuing a Child Psychology degree. My outside interests include spending time with Linda, golfing, and music. We are currently preparing for our eventual move to Middlebury, Vermont with great anticipation.

Omya's Middlebury Quarry Open House

On Saturday, September 13th Omya hosted its Middlebury Quarry Open House and once again it proved to be a popular event with over 1,000 people attending.

Over 70 Omya employees and contractors volunteered to host the event and share their knowledge of mining and processing of the marble at the Omya Verpol facility in Florence, Vermont. Guests were greeted in the parking area and proceeded to the welcome tent. Here, visitors collected information about the event – including a map of the quarry and a scavenger hunt for children. Guests advanced through the safety area and received a briefing on safety rules while visiting the quarry.

There was truly something for everyone at the quarry event. Enormous trucks, loaders and other quarry equipment were on display. The marble "sand" pile (ground calcium carbonate) was a favorite spot for children again this year and they played there with toy trucks and shovels. Children and adults lined up at the microscope and enjoyed Shelley Snyder's (of the Vermont Geological Society) Sediment Show. Many enjoyed the bountiful display of minerals and rocks and were able to ask questions of the experienced mineralogists, geologists and chemists.

Four guided tour buses shuttled visitors into the quarry for a close-up look at geological formations. Visitors could ride through the tour or get off the bus and visit the quarry from below, where they had an opportunity to talk to experts about minerals and rocks. Many enjoyed collecting rocks and taking home a souvenir. Drilling equipment was on display where visitors learned about drilling, blasting and the quarrying process. Omya geologists provided an overview of the quarry's history and explained how resources such as stone, water and land are used and how it is beneficial to the environment.

Not only did the day provide fun-filled education for all ages but it also provided Omya with an opportunity to answer questions, educate the public on what we do and meet our neighbors and community members.





Verpol Drives Electric Conservation Efforts

Electricity is one of the main drivers of Verpol's production process. It is used to power mills to grind stone, pumps to move slurry, lights to illuminate buildings and computers to control the plant. As GMP's second largest customer after IBM in Essex, Verpol is actively engaged in electric conservation efforts to reduce power consumption as well as power demand.

Using the Customer Credit Program—a program fully paid for by the energy efficiency charge on Verpol's electric bill and administered by Efficiency Vermont – Verpol has recently retrofitted over 2,800 light fixtures from incandescent and/or fluorescent bulbs to LED technology. This new LED lighting uses just 40% of the power previous lighting used. In addition, this technology generates a brighter, whiter light which provides an easier work environment. The project also improved controls, making it easier to provide lighting when and where it is needed and turning it off when it isn't.

Using this same program Verpol has upgraded a number of hydraulic drives to variable speed drives. The old hydraulic drives acted as a brake to slow certain classifying equipment, generating heat in the process. By converting to variable speed drives the process captures the braking energy and converts it into electricity which is put back into the plant's internal grid. The area becomes cooler and uses less electricity.

Further conservation projects included adding screens to mills to improve the quality of the grinding media as well as reducing the size of mill classifiers, efforts which resulted in fewer kW-hours being used to grind a ton of product.

In addition to power conservation, Omya actively participates in a program to help reduce the demand on New England's power grid during critical events. You may recall brownouts and blackouts which have occurred when the power demand has exceeded the supply. These often occur on very cold or very hot days when additional power is needed by New England's consumers for heating or cooling. On these days, Omya may be called upon to reduce its power demand by nearly half. This action, occurring in 30 minutes or less, allows other consumers to use this power while avoiding blackouts throughout the region.

Verpol is committed in its efforts to conserve electricity and encourages all to submit their ideas to do so.

Verpol Welcomes New Plant Management



John Schell and Wayne Wilmans

Both John and I will have some large boots to fill. Jim was well respected and has a long history with the employees in the Verpol plant. Fortunately he has left us with a very competent, dynamic and resilient team that has proven itself in many ways through numerous difficult times. We look forward to working together to bring continued value to each and every customer, our community and all of our neighbors. We are glad to be part of this team and hope that we

can continue to both build upon the major successes achieved over the last few years and maintain a healthy and rewarding work environment for all of our employees. Both John and I have a "hands on and open door" style of management and we really look forward to digging in and working with everybody. We are certainly glad to be here at Verpol.

Best Regards,

Wayne Wilmans and John Schell

Welcome to Pittsford the Sunshine Village

Have you noticed the new welcome sign as you travel north into Pittsford? Omya was happy to donate a new town sign, made by Mitchell T's & Signs Incorporated from Pittsford, Vermont. The sign replaces the original one which was put up in July 2004 by the Pittsford Girl Scout Troop 499.



what's new

The year began on the slow side due to the impact of the very long winter we experienced this past year. While business remained consistent during those months, I'm sure we were all more than glad when spring finally arrived. Since then our shipments have remained strong, the overall marketplace seems to have more confidence and 2014 has seen our focus turn toward improving efficiency, energy savings and getting the right people into the right jobs.



The LNG fuel station was supplying fuel to Casella Construction, Inc. by late October. Casella was contracted to haul our ore from Middlebury to our plant in Florence, and, unfortunately, we were sad to see our long standing relationship with LF Carter come to a close. Trucks which utilize LNG fuel produce lower emissions compared to gasoline or diesel and have quieter engines, and overall lower cost units. Our LNG facility is performing very well and we are implementing some improvements with respect to both winter ice control and winter inspection safety.

The Middlebury Quarry Open House in September was very successful. Over 1,000 people visited the quarry. This event is a great opportunity for our employees to interact with the public and a fun time for kids and adults alike.

Thank you all for your enduring patience as we continue to try to come up with solutions to the van trucks driving the wrong way on Whipple Hollow and West Creek Roads. To date we have posted signage, contracted with the Pittsford Police Department and Rutland County Sheriff's Department to patrol the roads and had conversations with customers and truckers. While this problem has improved some, we continue to experience truckers that utilize their GPS tracking devices instead of the directional signs. If you have any ideas toward a solution for this problem, please feel free to contact me.

Lastly, this edition will be my last "What's New" as I will be retiring in January 2015 after 42 years of service. I will truly miss all of my Omya work colleagues and interactions with our neighbors and friends. It's hard for me to believe I am at this stage of my life; it seems like only yesterday I was a very young staff geologist for Vermont Marble assigned to help out Dave Sargent at the White Pigment Plant in New Haven, Vermont. Since then I have had many opportunities to travel and live as far away as Thailand and as nearby as California, Ontario, Quebec, and Ohio. I have learned so much from the individuals I have worked with and I retire knowing that Wayne Wilmans and John Schell will do an even better job of managing the people and resources of the largest Omya plant in the Americas. Thank you all for your support of my efforts.

Best Regards,

Jim Stewart
jim.stewart@omya.com

recent & upcoming events

January 8
Community Issue Team Meeting

May 1
Omya Employees Green Up Day

May 2
Town of Pittsford Green Up Day*

May 18-22
Biannual Water Monitoring Event (includes quarterly surface water monitoring)

*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

Maclure Library
Middlebury Land Trust
Pittsford Historical Society
Mendon Fish and Game
RAFFL

Youth Events

Adaptive Martial School
Benson Village School – Walking Trail
Black Ice Hockey
Caverly Preschool
Fair Haven Cheerleading
Fair Haven Football
Fair Haven Union High School
Four Winds Science Program
Granville Central School
Lakes Region Youth Orchestra
LEAP – Lothrop Enrichment Afterschool Program
Modern Woodsman of American
Mount Saint Joseph Academy
Otter Valley Football
Otter Valley Raft Race
Otter Valley Union High School
Pittsford Pack 110
Proctor Elementary School
Proctor High School
Rutland Free Library – Robo Rattlers
Vermont Achievement Center
Wallingford Elementary School

Parent Teacher Organization-Association (PTO-PTA)

Neshobe PTO
Rutland Town Boosters Club
Quarry Hill School

Fundraiser Walks & Runs

Three Day Stampede for Cystic Fibrosis
Ripton Ridge Run
Rutland County Relay for Life
Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

Community Events

Addison County Field Days
Brandon Independence Day Parade
Brandon Senior Center
Castleton Cares
Castleton College – Concerts on the Green
Fair Haven Sunshine Fund

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Employee Garden



Many businesses are devoting more attention to health and wellness and Omya is certainly one of those businesses. Verpol's Health & Wellness Committee meets at the beginning of each year to determine various goals based on surveys and questionnaires completed by employees. Those goals are set with the objective to improve overall health by exercising, eating healthy and creating a healthy awareness. In 2014, the Verpol Health & Wellness

Committee planted a garden to support and promote better nutrition in the workplace.

In May, Charlie Nardozi, master gardener and co-host of "In the Garden" on WCAX (Channel 3) met with a team of Verpol employees. They discussed the idea of a community garden and Charlie gave some great suggestions on how to get started and make a garden productive and sustainable.

All supplies were purchased through local merchants. Wood was used to make raised beds; compost and hay were brought in to nourish the planted vegetables. One committee member designed a water system supporting two hand-held sprinklers to water the beds daily. Four raised beds were constructed for tomatoes, green beans, two varieties of lettuce, Swiss chard, spinach, peppers and marigolds. Six large mounds supported cucumbers, summer squash and zucchini, watermelon, acorn and hubbard winter squash – not to mention the four blueberry plants!

The garden produced well and allowed the committee to share a bountiful harvest with employees. One week during the summer over 100 cucumbers, squash and tomatoes were cut and served with ranch dressing as a nutritious mid-day snack for all employees to enjoy! The garden has not only provided an opportunity to produce wonderful "fruit" to share with employees, it has also given employees a chance to come together and work as a team on a fun activity. Gardening also proves to be a stress-reliever during the day, a way to warm up in the sunshine and a way to be proud of a great nutritional project.

Projects like these are recognized at the Worksite Wellness Conference, held annually in Burlington, Vermont and attended by businesses throughout the state. The Verpol plant is proud to be a recipient of the Worksite Wellness Bronze Level award in 2013 and the Worksite Wellness Silver Level award in 2014. The program recognizes employee wellness programs that reduce absenteeism and employee turnover and help in reducing health care costs. The committee is devoted to helping employees find health and happiness through health and wellness programs, activities and education.



Omya Seeks Approval for Tailing Management Facility Recertification

On October 23, Omya submitted a Recertification Application for its Tailings Management Facility (TMF) located at Omya's Verpol Plant in Florence, Vermont. The TMF currently is operated under a 5-year Solid Waste Disposal Facility Certification issued on May 6, 2010.

With this recertification application, Omya again seeks approval of the TMF, which – with one notable exception – remains unchanged from the facility certified in 2010. Accordingly, the Division's prior findings, conclusions, conditions, and monitoring requirements associated with the original certification largely still apply. The lone exception refers to Omya's request, pursuant to Solid Waste Management Rules, that the Division waive the requirement that the TMF include a liner. This request is based upon and is supported by the substantial scientific evidence submitted demonstrating that the materials to be placed in the TMF are safe to human health and the environment and that a liner no longer serves any practical purpose.

Shortly after the original certification was issued, the State of Vermont approved Omya's request to discontinue use of aminoethylethanolamine (AEEA) as a component in the flotation reagent and to replace it with DETA (diethylenetriamine), which is significantly less harmful than AEEA. Although DETA was known at the time to be safer than AEEA, the scientific understanding of DETA had not progressed sufficiently to prove just how safe it was to human health and to groundwater.

This has now changed. In 2012, the EPA determined that the toxicity database for DETA is "complete," meaning that the additional safety factor (of 10) that previously had been applied to establish a conservative drinking water standard to account for the incompleteness of toxicity information for DETA, is no longer necessary.

Furthermore, the evidence and scientific analyses submitted with this recertification application demonstrates that the toxicity of DETA is extremely low, and that any DETA leaching from an unlined tailings facility would not migrate in detectable amounts to the point of compliance.

The toxicity of DETA, and by extension Omya's tailings, is so low that tailings have been approved for use in Vermont and several other states in the northeast as an agricultural liming material. The tailings (containing trace quantities of DETA) are now being used directly on soils to improve agricultural growing conditions. There no longer is any rational basis for requiring a liner for the TMF.

Even without a liner, the TMF will not cause an undue adverse impact to groundwater, to human health, or to the environment. The TMF will be sited, designed, operated such that an emission or discharge therefrom will not unduly harm the public health and will have the least possible reasonable impact on the environment.

The Recertification process over the next several months will include public meetings where the community can learn more about the application content, ask questions and provide comments to Omya and the State of Vermont.

In the meantime, if you have any immediate questions or concerns with regards to the Omya application for recertification, please don't hesitate to contact Mike Laurent at 802-770-7568.

Summer Employment Program

The Verpol plant once again had the opportunity to hire summer help. This year there were ten returning students and thirteen new summer hires.

Hiring summer help provides opportunities for Omya to move projects forward, discover new approaches and give aspiring professionals a chance to be in a productive manufacturing environment. These summer employees are learning technical skills which will be applied to their various degrees while simultaneously learning life skills which will assist them in working with all varieties of people. For many students, this means meeting new expectations of how to perform in their first job. They enjoy working with a supportive and enjoyable team, as well as, learning new and diverse skills – and Omya employees are happy to share what they know about various processes and different jobs as they train summer hires to assist them.

The Verpol plant has been hiring summer employees for over ten years. These opportunities are publicized through word of mouth and with local schools, and we encourage our employees' children to come and work at the same facility as their parents. This summer employment program also gives local youth the opportunity to make a good wage with full time hours as they work close to home.

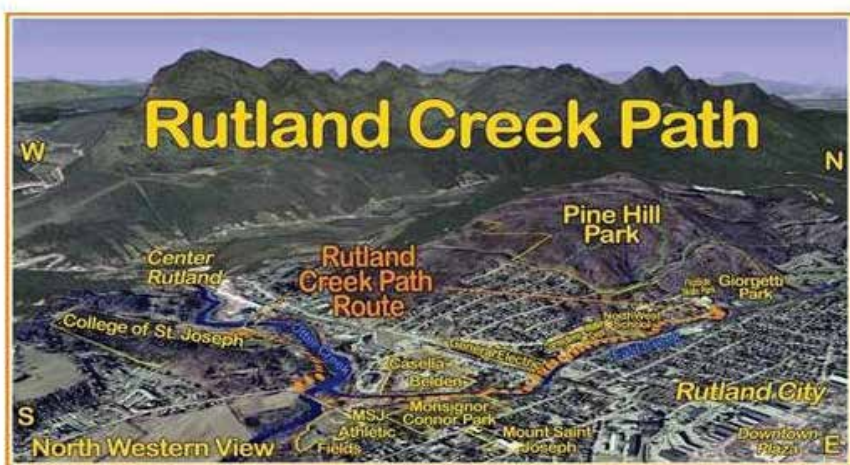
Through the years, Verpol has found that some summer employees continue to work over repeated summers and then are available to be hired on as full time employees. Omya has hired several engineers and production personnel who have begun their careers as summer employees.

For further information on summer employment opportunities at the Verpol plant please contact Liz Gregorek at 802-770-7540.

Omya Supports the Rutland Creek Path

Omya recognizes its responsibility to respond to the needs of the communities in which it operates. This responsibility is demonstrated through financial, in-kind and volunteer contributions. Omya is pleased to make a donation in support of the Rutland Creek Path. The Rutland Creek Path will be an approximately two mile multi-use biking or walking path for people of all ages and travels along low volume and dead end roads and as a separated path alongside East and Otter Creeks.

The path begins at Giorgetti Athletic Complex and Pine Hill Park and extends south along the western bank of the East Creek to just south of West Street, where a new 100 ft. span pedestrian bridge will bring it across East Creek to Meadow Street Park. Here it will skirt the ball fields along the eastern bank of the Creek to the current VTrans project replacement for the Dorr Drive Bridge across the Otter Creek, extending finally along Dorr Drive to the College of St. Joseph. The spring of 2015 will be busy with construction of Segment 4 (from Meadow Street Park to the Dorr Drive Bridge) as well as engineering on Segment 5 (from Dorr Drive Bridge to College of St. Joseph).



Safety Counts

Omya has set a goal to reach zero accidents and zero incidents. Our employees and contractors are our greatest asset and a very important part of our business. As such, Omya focuses on continuous improvement to achieve this goal.

At the Vermont plant we have provided our employees with many tools and programs to assist in improving the health and safety of everyone. These tools include near miss reporting, health and safety training, 6S (a workplace organizational method for efficiency and effectiveness), behavioral based safety (BBS) program STOP and more. Our health and safety training, which includes CPR/First Aid and proper use of fire extinguishers, provides skills to our employees which can be used not only at work but at home and in the community.

Some of these programs are designed to help us prevent accidents and incidents while others, such as near miss and injury reporting, tell us how well we are doing. All of these programs are important; however, it is behavioral based safety that is our primary focus.

The principal of behavioral-based safety is to improve safety awareness in our employees, generate positive dialogue and reshape the safety culture in our workplace. We can have all of the best tools and intentions but unless we truly believe in them and know how to use them precisely we will fall short of our zero accidents and incidents goal.

Ideally the health and safety behavior will become part of our culture not just at work but at home and in the community. For example, we not only need to wear personal protective equipment and practice health and safety programs at work but also at home while doing lawn work, bicycling, etc. By consistently thinking about eliminating and reducing risks we will influence others around us to do the same.

The power of influence is not to be understated – we are always being influenced consciously and subconsciously by the people and environment around us. By creating a positive environment, observing safe work practices and having motivating conversations, we will inevitably improve our health and safety culture.

Momentum toward changing or improving behavior requires complete support from the top down. Omya's leaders have made health and safety a top priority and are fully engaged and devoted to reaching zero accidents and incidents. "Safety is everyone's responsibility," says Wayne Wilmans, assistant plant manager. "It is a condition of employment at Omya and part of each and every employee's daily work."

At Omya our health and safety policy aims to ensure plant, staff and public safety. Omya is continuously striving to improve in the prevention of accidents and injuries. Our target is safe and incident free operations here in Vermont and throughout the world.

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.

Omya Academic Scholarship 2014

Omya announces the recipients of its 2014 Academic Scholarship Program, which was designed to offer incentives for the development of Vermont's future workforce and to encourage area students to pursue degrees in math and science. Students chosen for the scholarship awards demonstrate a commitment to learning, leadership and community involvement.

A total of \$9,000 dollars in scholarships was awarded to the following recipients:

- **Jacob Tomlinson** – Proctor High School
- **Sarah Elliott** – Mill River Union High School
- **Joe Dempsey** – Otter Valley Union High School
- **Faith Cavacas** - Rutland High School
- **Isaac Parker** – Mount Abraham Union High School
- **Peter Sawyer** – West Rutland High School

Congratulations to each of our 2014 Scholarship recipients!

Omya Gives Back < continued from page 2 >

Festival on the Green
Friends of Brandon Town Hall
Friends of Vergennes Opera House
Loyalty Day Parade - Rutland
Town of West Rutland – Concert Series
RAVE
Sheldon Museum
Vermont Folklife Center
Wonderfeet Kids' Museum

To make a donation request please contact us at 802-770-7500. You can also make requests through our website at www.OmyaInVermont.net or mail requests to the Omya Verpol Facility at P.O. Box 10, Whipple Hollow Road, Florence, VT 05744. The Donations Committee meets monthly to review requests.

Interested in a Tour?

You are cordially invited to visit our facility and see what we do. Schedule a private tour or come as a group (school groups 4th Grade and up 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 at 802-770-7500 or leave a message on our Community Feedback Line 802-770-7644.



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