

Certification Granted for Proposed Tailings Management Facility

On May 7, 2010 the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) issued a final Solid Waste Disposal Facility Certification to Omya for its proposed Tailings Management Facility (TMF).

Under “Full” Certification, Omya will manage its mineral tailings in the TMF, utilizing industry standard methods. The TMF consists of an engineered polyethylene (plastic) geomembrane liner and leachate collection system placed over existing tailings material. The system will collect any water that may contact the tailings and recycle it back into the plant operations. This Full Certification is valid for five-years.

In addition to the Full Certification, we also received the required State of Vermont Act 250 and Town of Pittsford zoning

permits which allowed us to begin pre-construction earth work. The first portion of the facility is expected to be completed in October of 2010. While the TMF is under construction, we will continue to manage our tailings under the terms of a two-year Interim Certification that was issued in October 2008 by the ANR. The Interim Certification, in accordance with Vermont’s solid waste management rules, allows us to manage our tailings while at the same time systematically closing the existing unlined tailings management areas.

The Full Certification requires us to continue our regular water quality sampling and testing at 45 different locations in accordance with the State-approved site monitoring plan, as well as follow other

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Calcium Carbonate in Plastics

The term “plastic” means capable of being shaped or formed. Plastic is often used in place of other materials such as glass, wood and metals and in construction and decoration. Omya’s ground calcium carbonate plays an important role in plastics by providing numerous benefits to many consumer and industrial products now in everyday use.

Polyvinyl-chloride, or PVC, is a plastic that is widely used in construction today. The vinyl siding on many of our homes is one of the main uses of PVC containing Omya calcium carbonate. PVC pipes, from half an inch to four-feet wide, are used to move many types of liquids for drainage, sewage, and irrigation. PVC is also used as electrical conduit. PVC flooring sheets and tiles contain up to 80% calcium carbonate – a feature that improves durability. Plastic lumber made of PVC is used in white picket fences and the white trim boards around windows on homes. Other PVC applications include plastic coatings for wires and cables, and even shoe soles.

Calcium carbonate is also used in other plastic applications, such as Polyolefin (polyethylene and polypropylene). Baby diapers, adult hygiene products and disposable lab coats use polyethylene film that is made breathable by an innovative Omya calcium carbonate product. When the plastic film is stretched, calcium carbonate particles produce small holes in the film. The holes allow gasses like oxygen to pass through, but are too small to allow the transfer of liquids. Another Polyolefin film that contains calcium carbonate is BOPP which is used for specialized packaging like the wrappers on candy bars.

Other applications for calcium carbonate include plastic grocery sacks, garbage bags and compostable bags for biodegradable waste. Polyolefin sheets containing calcium carbonate are formed into plastic party plates, food packages and microwavable take-out containers. Polyethylene coatings on the inside and outside of many food packages like milk cartons also contain calcium carbonate. Our products also find their way into molded plastics such

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what’s new

Made in Vermont

For the past 33 years, Omya has shown its commitment to making high-quality products here in Vermont by investing in our operations, our employees and our local communities.



Vermont is blessed with many abundant natural resources, including marble. From the late 1800s through the mid-1900s, turning marble into building materials was the economic engine for many Vermont communities like Florence. But by the 1970s, traditional marble production was declining steadily with the advent of new, more cost effective construction materials.

Fortunately, finely-ground minerals are used to manufacture some of those new construction materials. Now, instead of being sawn and polished, marble extracted from Omya’s Vermont quarries is processed at our Florence facility into a wide range of commercial and industrial products. This modern process uses almost all of the marble resource and thus is many times more efficient than in years past.

Besides the marble ore, Omya’s business has been built on another key resource: our employees. Omya’s highly-talented, innovative and dedicated employees ensure that our products are made using sound production practices using methods that are in full compliance with all applicable requirements.

But great mineral resources and dedicated employees alone are not enough to sustain our business. Other factors influence our ability to remain competitive in a global marketplace. Reliable and cost-effective transportation is vital in order for us to serve the number of growing industries using our products inside and outside of the New England region. Energy is also a critical factor, as we compete with other companies that may benefit from being located in areas where there is an abundance of less expensive energy, including natural gas.

Our facility in Florence is the largest Omya processing plant in the Americas. To secure our future, we must continuously improve process efficiencies to reduce the amount of materials and energy we consume. We must also seek cost-effective alternative energy sources that will reduce our air emissions.

Omya will continue to build and improve its business here in Vermont, remain actively involved with our community, and continue the tradition of making marble-based products in Florence.

I welcome your comments, concerns and suggestions about Omya in Vermont. Please contact me directly at 770-7617 and I will do my best to assist you.

Best regards,

Pierre Masuy
Plant Manager

upcoming events

June 26
Pittsford Day Celebration *

August 26
Quarterly Surface Water Monitoring

October 16
Omya Middlebury Quarry Open House

Ocober 25-29
Biannual Water Monitoring Event

** Omya is a proud sponsor of this event*

Omya Gives Back

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

- Annual Mentor Bowl
- Barstow School – Educational Equipment
- Black Ice Hockey Team
- Brandon Chamber of Commerce
- Brandon Food Shelf
- Brandon Senior Center
- Brandon Toy Project
- Camp Thorpe
- Cancer Patient Support Program
- Castleton Charitable Committee
- Caverly Preschool
- Chaffee Art Center
- CVPS Share Heat
- Dimensions of Marble
- Downtown Rutland Partnership
- Fair Haven Football
- Four Winds Nature Institute
- Freezing Fun For Families - Fundraiser for children with Leukemia
- Gift-of-Life Marathon Blood Drive
- Green Mountain Rock Climbing
- HOPE (Middlebury Food Shelf)
- Jingle Bell Jaunt
- Kids Are Us Childcare Center - Brandon
- Kiwanis Club
- Lakes Region Independent Ryders
- Lady Legends Basketball Team (AAU)
- Lothrop Elem. School (LEAP Program)
- Lothrop School (Trip to Paramount Theatre)
- Mettawee Community School
- Middlebury Police Explorers
- Mill River Union HS – Food Baskets
- Mill River Union HS – Model UN
- Mill River Union HS – Project Graduation
- MSJ Hockey – Golf Hole Sponsorship
- MSJ – Project Graduation
- MSJ – Trip to Washington, D.C.
- Neshobe Sportsman Club – Youth hunting license
- Omya Crushers – Volleyball Team
- Open Door Mission
- Orwell Village School
- Otter Valley Union HS Music Program
- Pack the Paramount Food Drive
- Paramount Festival of Trees
- Pittsford Disc Golf
- Pittsford Food Shelf
- Pittsford Historical Society
- Pittsford Recreation Department
- Pittsford Santa’s Fund
- Pops Concert In Middlebury
- Poultney Summer Theatre
- Proctor Junior - Senior High School – Concession Stand
- Proctor High School Girls’ Varsity Soccer
- Proctor High School – Sports Booster
- Quarry Hill School
- RNESU 6th Grade Partnership
- Rutland Chamber of Commerce Legislative Bus Trip
- Rutland County Relay for Life
- Rutland Town School Booster Club
- Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl
- The Boys & Girls Club of Brandon
- Tri-M National Music Honor Society (RHS)
- Vermont 4-H Horse Show
- Wallingford Elementary School
- West Rutland Food Shelf
- West Rutland Booster Club

Proud to Serve

Words like dedication, discipline, and service to others take on life and meaning through Omya employees Fredrick Burney, Nate McKay, and Wayne Watson with their service to our country as members of the U.S. Military.

Fredrick Burney, or “Rick” as we know him, currently is serving in Afghanistan with the Vermont National Guard as a Specialist and Infantry Cook. Rick was deployed in January 2010. In 2004-2005, prior to coming to Omya, Rick served a tour in Iraq alongside Nate McKay, another Omya employee. Rick, a Shipping Load-Out Operator, has been with Omya for four years. Omya and its employees show their support to Rick by providing him with a computer and internet access so he can stay in touch with his twin toddlers, through emails from co-workers, and care packages and offers of assistance to family while awaiting his safe return home.

Nate McKay served in the U.S. Navy for six years on tours in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf, and West Pacific. He was deployed to the Iraq theater in 2004-2005 where he provided security for the Kuwait camps and for the Iraq/Kuwait border, earning the rank of Master Sergeant. From 1989 to 2007 Nate served as a member of the Vermont National Guard. Employed at Omya for 20 years, he has held a variety of positions and currently is a Mechanical Maintenance Technician. He expresses his “appreciation for the enduring support from co-workers and flexibility the company has shown to me throughout my military service.” After serving a total of 24 years in the military, Nate retired from the Service to spend more time with his wife and two children.

Following in his family’s military footsteps, Wayne Watson served in the U.S. Navy as a member of the SeaBees (Construction Battalion) for three years before joining the Vermont National



Guard. Twenty-years later, Wayne remains an active member of the Guard, serving as a Staff Sergeant and Heavy Equipment Operator. His tours have taken him to Japan, Puerto Rico and Beirut, and Iran in 2006-2007 where his job was to locate and destroy roadside bombs. Wayne has been with Omya for 14 years and enjoys his position as a Materials Handler. He says that “Omya and its employees were very supportive and offers of assistance to my family during my deployment were numerous, allowing me to concentrate on my mission.” Wayne and his wife have four children.

It is with great respect that we at Omya offer our thanks to all service men and women, past and present, for their sacrifice and commitment to others. They are an inspiration to us all.

Middlebury Rail Spur Receives Key Endorsement

In January 2010 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) endorsed the construction of a 3.5 mile rail spur as the most economically and environmentally effective option to transport marble ore from the Middlebury Quarry to Omya’s plant in Florence.

For over a decade, Omya, Vermont Rail Systems, the Conservation Law Foundation and Vermont’s agencies of Commerce and Community Development, Natural Resources and Transportation worked together on ore transportation options. After reviewing several options the FHWA endorsed the 3.5 mile rail spur with an estimated cost of over \$30 million.

Omya will be the largest user of the rail spur. However, the intent is that the rail spur will be available for use by other businesses in Vermont through the development of a bulk trans-loading facility adjacent to the Middlebury Quarry. Use of the rail spur will allow us to significantly reduce truck traffic on U.S. Route 7.

Pierre Masuy, Verpol Plant Manager, stated, “The rail spur would be an important addition to Vermont’s infrastructure and a plus for local economies. Rail offers additional options for businesses within Vermont to ship or receive materials in a more energy efficient and cost-effective way.”

Funding for the project would come from two separate sources: the majority will come from fees charged to the users of the spur, with the remainder from an already-secured federal allocation.



Community Partnership

Omya employees showed their dedication in helping improve the lives of neighbors, family and friends in the community by pledging \$24,706 to the 2009 United Way Campaign. The United Way supports over 33 non-profit health and community service organizations that provide assistance to residents of Rutland County.



Liz Gregorek, Heather Fowler, Celia Lisananti, Ann Lurvey-Scholtz and Jill Blanchard.

Fall 2009 Water Monitoring

October 2009 water monitoring results met all regulatory requirements and are consistent with the findings of previous sampling events undertaken since completion of the independent Section 5 Study of our Florence operations. Copies of all monitoring reports are furnished to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and to the Town of Pittsford. View all of our extensive water monitoring efforts and detailed reports at www.OmyaInVermont.net and click on “Environment”.

Scholarship Recipients

The 2009 Omya Scholarship recipients were presented with their scholarship awards on Tuesday, January 5th and given a tour of the Florence facility. Omya wishes these bright young women and men great success with their studies and future plans!



Pictured L-R are: Claire Cipriani (Proctor High School), Julie Ketcham (Otter Valley Union High School), Connor Quigley (Otter Valley Union High School) Molly Miles (Otter Valley Union High School), Patricia Danahy (Fair Haven Union High School) and Alessandra Hodulik (Mount Saint Joseph Academy). Not pictured are: Katherine Borsh (Woodstock Union High School) and Ethan Peterson (Rutland High School). Omya will award \$14,000 in scholarships again this year to graduating seniors in the class of 2010. The Omya scholarship recipients will be announced at the recipients’ respective schools’ senior awards ceremonies.

Omya Exhibit

AT THE VT MARBLE MUSEUM IN PROCTOR

If you haven’t done so lately, you are encouraged to stop by and visit the world’s largest marble exhibit and tour the Omya Room. Our exhibit will tell you how our products are processed and used in your daily life. The museum is open seven days a week. Visit their website <http://www.vermont-marble.com> for hours of operation or call 802-459-2300.

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.

Did You Know...

Calcium carbonate is found naturally throughout the world, most commonly as the mineral calcite, in the form of chalk, limestone and marble. It is estimated that four percent of the Earth’s crust is made up of calcium carbonate. Due to its abundance and physical and chemical properties, calcium carbonate’s utilization has evolved from being the ancient building block of the Egyptian pyramids to the modern-day building block of numerous everyday consumer products. It’s surprising, but *all* of the following utilize calcium carbonate.

Antacids, Aquarium Stone, Auto Parts, Cables, Carpet & Carpet Backing, Caulking Compounds, Ceiling Tiles, Cement, Ceramics, Cereal, Chewing Gum, Cleansers, Conduits, Cosmetics, Crackers, Crayons, Crop Nutrients, Cutlery, Cultured Marble Fixtures, Diapers, Dietary Supplements, Duct Tape, Dyes, Fiberglass, Fire Retardant Coatings, Flooring, Food Trays, Glass Manufacturing, Glue, Golf Sand Traps, Hoses, Joint Compound, Landscape Rock, Linoleum, Liners, Livestock Feed, Milk Carton Stock, Outlet Boxes, Paint, Pancake Mix, Paper, Pharmaceuticals, Plasters, Plastics, Pools, Pottery, Putty, PVC Pipe, Roofing Shingles, Rubber Products, Sealants, Slides, Soap, Soil pH Neutralization, Spackle, Stucco, Sugar Refining, Tile, Toothpaste, Trash Bags and Barrels, Vinyl Siding, Water Treatment, Window Casings





people at Omya

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Employees at Omya are talented and diverse – and sometimes related! Brothers Roscoe and Dana Jones, and their nephew Kyle, collectively have 20 years of service with Omya. Roscoe started at Omya 10 years ago as an Electrical Apprentice and quickly showed interest and abilities in mechanics as well. Today Roscoe uses both skill sets in his position as a Mechanical-Electrical Technician.



Pleased with the opportunities at Omya, Roscoe encouraged his brother Dana to apply for a position. Initially Dana was hired into the Load-Out Department, but ultimately his interest in mechanics led him to the Maintenance Department where he has worked as a Mechanical Maintenance Technician for the past six years.

Kyle is the latest Jones family member to join Omya. He has worked as an Operator in the Packaging Department for over three years.

Five generations of Jones’ have called Vermont home, and many live down the street from one another. Love of family and outdoor extracurricular activities is a common thread. Roscoe is the farmer, managing beef cattle, haying and clearing fields. Dana and Kyle often can be found on the farm lending a hand. The Jones’ have always fixed their own machinery, which helped develop their technical and mechanical aptitude.

All three men work the off-shift hours. They are the “firefighters” for the plant, meaning they get equipment up and running so that the day shift is ready to go. Their motto is, “If it’s broke, we fix it.” The Jones’ feel Omya is a company that works with their employees to offer interesting opportunities, comprehensive benefits and good salaries. The rest of us at Omya consider ourselves lucky to have the Jones’ as part of our family and to keep our facility up and running.

- Tailings Management Facility Certification
- Calcium Carbonate in Plastics
- Proud to Serve
- Middlebury Rail Spur
- Community Partnerships
- Scholarship Recipients
- Did You Know...
- Fall Water Monitoring

We encourage your questions and comments.
(802) 770-7644 or
OmyaInVermont.net – click “Contact”


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

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rigorous compliance protocols. (See related article titled “Fall 2009 Water Monitoring” for more on the monitoring program.)

Construction of the TMF is the final phase of a long-term solution to managing our tailings on our Florence site. Once in operation, virtually all tailings-related water will be recycled via closed-loop directly back to the plant.

In addition to engineering a placement solution for our tailings, we are in pursuit of markets for beneficial use of the tailings. Efforts in this area show promise, which would reduce or eliminate the need for future expansion of the TMF.

The TMF Certification process began in May 2009 when Omya submitted an application to the ANR. The application was deemed “technically complete” by October of 2009 and a draft Certification was issued in December, after which the State solicited public comments and held a public informational meeting in Pittsford on January 14, 2010.

Copies of the Full Certification, ANR’s response to public comments, and Omya’s application are available on our website “www.OmyaInVermont.net”.

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as shampoo and other bottles, plastic eating utensils and panels that make up backyard sheds.

Calcium carbonate is also used in the polyester that goes into the making of large Sheet Molding Compound (SMC) parts like car and truck body panels. SMC is a layer of chopped fiberglass sandwiched between two layers of polyester resin that has been mixed with dry calcium carbonate.

Given all the attention recently about energy and oil supplies, it is important to note that calcium carbonate’s use in plastics displaces petroleum-based resins. This also means that less energy is needed to melt the plastic for processing and cooling it into its final form. Calcium carbonate helps to conserve energy, lower costs and reduce the need for petroleum.

Today many consumer products are made of plastic. It is easy to see how calcium carbonate touches our lives without us realizing we’re touching calcium carbonate. (See article “Did You Know” for a sample listing of items containing calcium carbonate.)