



- 2009 Scholarship
- OHSAS 18001 Report
- Proctor Relocation
- New Website Launched
- Omya Gives Back
- Exterior Noise Control
- Interim Certification
- Community Issue Teams
- Tailings Dewatering Facility Update
- Biannual Water Monitoring Event

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


Verpol Plant
Whipple Hollow Road
Florence, VT 05744

2009 Scholarships

SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM READY TO HAND OUT SEVEN SCHOLARSHIPS

Each spring, Omya-Vermont makes available \$10,000 in academic scholarships to graduating seniors in Rutland and Addison counties. Omya's scholarship program offers incentives for the development of Vermont's future workforce. Students chosen for these awards possess a high level of academic ability and are well-rounded, exceptional individuals. The program awards four \$2,500 scholarships to graduating area high school students who plan to pursue a post-secondary degree in a field of science or engineering. To qualify, applicants must be accepted in

an accredited college or university. This is the fourth year of a very successful program. Several of the recipients have also taken advantage of summer internships that Omya has provided in order to gain career experience.

"Over the past four years, we have had the privilege of assisting a number of extremely talented young adults who have demonstrated a commitment to learning, leadership, and community involvement," states Christie Harris, external affairs manager.

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OHSAS 18001

OMYA'S VERPOL FACILITY REGISTERED TO SAFETY STANDARD

The OHSAS 18001 standard for Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) Management Systems was jointly developed by a number of international third-party certification bodies, national standards associations, and other interested parties. OHSAS 18001 enables companies to manage operational risks and improve performance. The standard also provides guidance on how to manage the health and safety aspects of business activities more effectively, while carefully considering accident prevention, risk reduction, and the well-being of the

entire plant team.

After an independent audit by Bureau Veritas Certification North America, Inc., Omya received registration rights to the Occupational Health & Safety Management Systems (OHSAS) (formerly known as BVQI) 18001:2007 standard. This registration marks the first time that the Omya Verpol facility's Quality, Environmental, and Safety systems were fully integrated and audited simultaneously as part of one cohesive system.

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what's new

Our community newsletter has a new look and a new format. This new layout allows us to use the full sheet of paper, which reduces waste and helps preserve our natural resources.

This paper also contains Omya calcium carbonate pigments

and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council as supporting "the highest social and environmental standards".

Let us know what you think:

OmyalnVermont.net – click “Contact”



Proctor Relocation

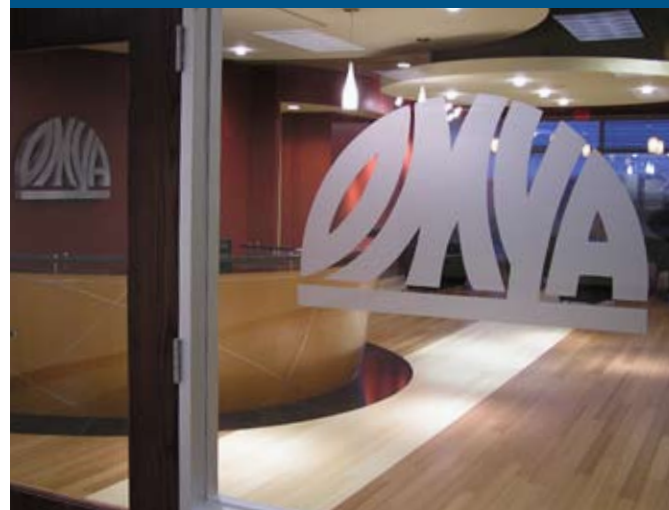
FINAL STAGE OF TRANSITION UNDERWAY

As you likely have heard, we announced on November 13th that we will complete the relocation of our Region Americas headquarters from Proctor to Cincinnati. The move includes our business support services departments, and is expected to be complete by December 2009.

The move to Cincinnati began in 2007, in response to the expansion of our Americas regional responsibilities. The relocation combines our core business support services in one location allowing us to better serve our customers and operating facilities.

Omya will continue to employ approximately 65 people in Proctor in various departments. In addition, we directly employ 150 people and over 100 subcontractors in Florence.

Moves such as this are never easy and we are working diligently with employees and their families who are affected by the relocation. We appreciate the contributions from all our employees and the support of community members as we work through this transition.



upcoming events

November 18
TheatreworksUSA Presents: Max and Ruby
at Paramount Theater

January 4
Opera Theatre of Weston: Hansel and Gretel

January 22
VT Institute of Natural Science Raptor Show

March 5
TheatreworksUSA Presents: Aesops Fables
at Paramount Theater

April 30
TheatreworksUSA Presents: Freedom Train
at Paramount Theater

Visit our website for more information on
upcoming events in our community
omyainvermont.net

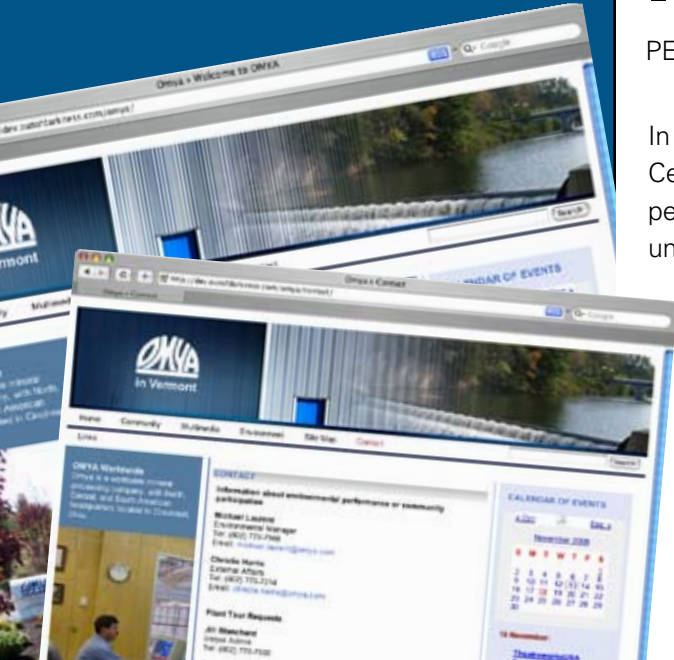
New Website Launched

OMYAINVERMONT.NET IS NEW
AND IMPROVED

Our updated website is designed to encourage two-way communication between Omya and its stakeholders. You will find all the same documents and information as hosted on the original site but with improved features and content. Highlights include:

- The “site map” will help you find a document or news clip
- Check the events calendar where special moments in time are captured and announcements posted
- There are audio clips, video clips, and a large picture gallery
- Donations requests can be made online starting in January 2009 by using the interactive request form
- Subscribe to the RSS feed to automatically receive notifications via e-mail

Your comments and feedback are important to us. Please click on “Contact” and fill out the online comment form.



Omya Gives Back

ASSISTANCE BENEFITS COMMUNITY

Omya has supported the area communities for many years. Below, as requested by several community members, is a recent sampling of our contribution initiatives:

- \$10,000 to Shareheat – see sidebar for full story
- \$13,000 in Omya Academic Scholarships
- Over \$40,000 to United Way of Rutland County through our annual employee campaign and company match
- Sponsored an American Red Cross blood drive
- Participation at Pittsford’s Community Day
- Sponsored the Pittsford Royals youth baseball team
- Proctor Fall Festival
- Volunteer efforts of numerous Omya employees

Omya employees are a reflection of the community in which we live and work. We are hockey and little league coaches, town government members, Rotarians and members of other community service organizations, church elders, and scout leaders. Omya believes in community involvement and gives back in ways both big and small.

Omya Pledges \$10,000

Last fall, Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS) created the Shareheat Business Partnership to enhance its matching funds program and encourage more donations. Every dollar that is donated to Shareheat goes directly to home heating assistance through the five community action agencies operating within the CVPS service territory (two-thirds of the state). Each donation is directed back to the donor’s community, so their pledge directly helps their neighbors. Omya’s contribution is channeled to BROC community action agency to assist families who are finding it difficult to pay today’s high fuel oil costs. Are you interested in helping others? Your contribution to Shareheat should be mailed to:

CVPS Shareheat Fund
77 Grove Street
Rutland, VT 05701
Attention: Donations

Exterior Noise Control

SOUND SOLUTIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

For a number of years, certain frequencies of sound from our facility have been problematic for some of our neighbors. While Omya is operating within applicable sound regulations, we have worked to address this issue but more aggressive steps were recently taken as a result of the Section 5 study. Over the last couple of years, Omya has been working with affected neighbors and noise consultants to identify the pieces of equipment that have the most impact. Since February of this year, the specific focus has been on the fine grinding mills, which were ultimately identified as a source of tonal sound that proved bothersome to

some people. There are a few paths for noise from those mills to travel, including ten rooftop vent openings and, during the summer, bay door openings at ground level. Computer modeling indicates the rooftop vents to be the more significant source due to elevation and the slope of the terrain surrounding the facility. The openings typically are closed in cold weather, thus neighbors have reported a reduction in noise during winter months. Now that the specific equipment appears to have been identified, final detailed engineering solutions and sound attenuation (lessening the sound) devices are now being considered.

Interim Certification

PERMIT ISSUED IN OCTOBER

In August 2005 Omya applied for an Interim Certification which allows us a two-year period to continue managing our tailings, under Vermont’s solid waste regulations, at our site in Florence. The Agency of Natural Resources performed a thorough evaluation of the application and issued an Interim Certification on October 21, 2008. The Interim Certification is supported by a comprehensive and independent environmental study of the entire Omya site. The \$2.5 million study was

submitted to the State Legislature in February of 2008 with key findings that showed our operations do not pose a threat to human health or the environment. We expect to apply for a Full Certification during this two-year interim period. During this time, we are also systematically closing the existing tailings management areas according to requirements laid out in the permit. The Interim Certification is available on our website at: **www.OmyaInVermont.net**

Community Issue Teams

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Background: Omya’s “Community Issue Teams” provide a venue where Omya and members of the community can work together toward crafting solutions to specific areas of concern. The team meetings:

- provide an additional forum for community feedback to Omya
- serve as a community resource for information about Omya’s operations
- and serve to strengthen Omya’s relationship with the local community

Participation: Omya employees and members of the community form various teams to identify community concerns and issues and share ideas for developing solutions.

The Trucks and Transportation Issue Team is working on solutions to traffic speed, truck route signage, road sweeping, and trestle maintenance.

The Plant Issue Team is focused on noise, water monitoring, and future tailings management practices.

The Quarry Issue Team is focused on the operational impacts of the Hogback Quarry. Issue Team agendas and meeting notes are posted on **OmyaInVermont.net**. To be considered as a team member, please contact **Mary-Kaye Macaulay at 776-8615**.

Tailings Dewatering Facility Update

TDF ENHANCES ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

In January 2008, we received an Act 250 permit to proceed with the construction of our Tailings Dewatering Facility (TDF). Once operational, the facility will eliminate the use of open settling cells for dewatering tailings. The facility will remove the process water from tailings within a controlled environment of tanks and equipment, and return the water directly to the main plant for reuse in the process. In addition to directly recycling process water, the dewatering facility will improve handling characteristics and increases the potential for commercial use of the tailings product. A detailed design review was conducted that addressed noise from both interior and exterior equipment at the TDF. Results performed by independent experts indicate that projected TDF noise contribution is well below the maximum allowed in the permit and that the sound from the facility likely will be inaudible



Biannual Water Monitoring Event

SPRING 2008 WATER MONITORING REPORT

Omya regularly conducts environmental monitoring under the jurisdiction of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC). Our approved plan calls for monitoring of surface and groundwater twice per year in May and October. In addition, there are two quarterly events in August and January which focus on surface water.

Geosyntec Consultants, formerly part of the Section 5 scientific team, conduct and monitor water sampling and lab testing for a broad range of analytes including our flotation agent and other Omya site-related substances.

Sampling this past spring took place from May 19 - 23, 2008 and, as required by the Monitoring Plan, included 24 on-site monitoring wells, three off-site monitoring wells, four off-site residential drinking water wells, the off-site municipal well, two off-site springs, on-site tailings settling cells, supernatant (pooled water) in tailings management areas (TMAs), and surface water at the Hogback Quarry.

On-site Wells B and K showed low detections of AEEA, a component of the flotation agent used in our process. The wells are located in, or adjacent to, the TMAs and tailings settling cells. Concentrations of AEEA were found in the supernatant of the tailings settling cell and the Dolomite and Kane & Drake TMAs. Detections in these areas are expected to be higher than other on-site locations, as the supernatant is considered to be process water. Additional sampling rounds showed continued reductions in the amount of AEEA in these locations, which was expected due to process changes. We will continue to monitor these areas regularly and report on the results.

Groundwater and surface water quality continues to be evaluated in accordance with the State-approved monitoring plan. Results are shared with community members, many of whom participated on the Section 5 Oversight Team. The results of the sampling events also are submitted to the VTDEC and the Pittsford-Florence Water District. The full reports are located on our website **OmyaInVermont.net**.

at any residence. Confirmation noise monitoring at the TDF will be conducted once the facility is online. This project is expected to be fully operational mid to late summer 2009. In the interim, our tailings management practices will continue to follow the current State approved procedures and the monitoring plans. For more information about the Tailing Dewatering Facility project, please contact Omya’s **Mike Laurent, (802) 770-7568**.

