



## State of Vermont

### AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES Department of Environmental Conservation

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Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
State Geologist  
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March 21, 2006

Mr. Michael Laurent, Environmental Manager  
Omya, Verpol Plant  
Florence Road, P.O. Box 10  
Florence, Vermont 05744

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	3/24/06	# of pages	1
To	Mike Laurent	From	Chris Jones		
Co./Dept.	Omya	Co.	Air Poll. Dir.		
Phone #		Phone #	802-241-3851		
Fax #	802-776-8263	Fax #			

Subject: Odors from Omya's Florence Facility

Dear Mr. Laurent:

For the last four to five years, neighbors of Omya's Florence facility have complained to Omya and the Air Pollution Control Division about odors they believe are coming from Omya's mineral processing operations. Over this period of time, the Air Division has performed regular inspections and investigations, but to date has not made a determination as to whether the odors are or are not in violation of Omya's Title V Air Pollution Control Permit (#AOP-98-015a). In fall 2004, in response to the neighbors' complaints (as presented by "Residents Concerned about Omya" or "RCO"), Omya proposed a voluntary plan, that was agreed to by RCO after some modifications, for identifying and abating the odors from its processes. Omya hired a competent independent odor abatement consultant to carry out this plan. The first two phases of the plan have been completed, and it has been determined that the odors of concern are in fact coming from Omya's processing operations at the East Plant. Omya has made a commitment to take action to abate these odors after the completion of phase III of the plan (regarding air toxics testing) this spring. As long as Omya moves forward in a timely manner with its current abatement plan, including taking adequate corrective actions to minimize its odor emissions, it may not be necessary for the Air Division to intensify its ongoing investigation of the odors.

Although it is still uncertain whether the odor problem I have described above constitutes a violation of Omya's Air Pollution Control Permit, I believe it is important for you to deal with it seriously since these odors have the potential to significantly affect the quality of life of Omya's neighbors. I hope you will continue to give the resolution of this odor problem the attention and resources it merits over the coming months.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Valentinetti, Director  
Air Pollution Control Division

cc: Senator Claire Ayer  
David Mears, Esq., Vermont Law School  
Andrea Cohen, SWM Program, Waste Management Division, ANR