



State of Vermont
Department of Environmental Conservation
Waste Management Division
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AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Patricia Coppolino, VTDEC Site Manager
Date: July 15, 2010
TO: Justin Johnson, VTDEC Commissioner
CC: George Desch, WMD Director
Matt Chapman, Division Counsel
SUBJECT: JARD site impact on Bennington Office Building

This memo is to address the concern of Senator Sears regarding potential impact from the JARD site on the Bennington Office Building property. In January 2007 VTDEC WMD staff collected six soil samples from areas of the Bennington Office Building that employees may recreate. The soil samples were collected and analyzed for PCBs, Beryllium and Zinc. The last two contaminants were requested by the VT Department of Health. All PCB samples were non-detect less than 1 part per million, all Beryllium and Zinc samples were less than the screening values used for residential locations.

Currently the VT DEC is evaluating migration and potential discharge of PCB contaminated groundwater from the JARD site. IF this contaminated groundwater migrated onto the State Office Building site the likely hood of human impact is minimal. Impact would come from ingestion, inhalation or dermal contact all of which are highly unlikely due to the site receiving drinking water from the municipal system, depth to groundwater is greater than eight feet below ground surface which makes it difficult to come into contact with and based on current information groundwater flow from the site does not flow toward the State Office Building property.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me by phone at (802) 241-3967, by email at patricia.coppolino@state.vt.us, or in writing at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Coppolino".

Patricia Coppolino, Site Manager
Sites Management Section
Brownfields Response Program





STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

July 16, 2010

Justin Johnson, Commissioner
Environmental Conservation
103 South Main St 1 South
Waterbury, VT, 05671-0401

Gerald J. Myers, Commissioner
Buildings and General Services
2 Governor Aiken Avenue
Montpelier, VT, 05633

Wendy Davis, M.D., Commissioner
Vermont Dept. of Health
108 Cherry Street P.O. Box 70
Burlington, VT, 05401

RE: Former JARD site in Bennington

Dear Commissioners Johnson, Meyers and Davis:

The Joint Fiscal Committee would like the administration to follow-up on two issues related to the former JARD site in Bennington at its next meeting on September 10, 2010. These issues are:

- 1) A summary of any investigations and findings that examined whether the contamination at the JARD site had any causal relationship to the past environmental issues at the Bennington State Office Building.
- 2) What actions are and/or will be taken to ensure no negative impact from the redevelopment of the JARD site on nearby properties including the Bennington State Office Building and the Vermont Veteran's Home.

Sincerely,

Rep. Michael Obuchowski, Chair

cc: Members of Joint Fiscal Committee
Neale Lunderville, Secretary of Administration

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

Commissioner's Office

103 South Main Street, 1 South [phone] 802-241-3808

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MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Michael Obuchowski, Chair, Joint Fiscal Committee

From: Justin G. Johnson, Commissioner, VT DEC
Patricia Coppolino, VTDEC Site Manager

SUBJECT: Former JARD site impact on Bennington Office Building

Date: September 2, 2010

This memo is written to augment the initial response to concerns raised by Senator Sears, and expressed by the Joint Fiscal Committee in correspondence to the relevant Commissioners dated July 16th, regarding potential impact from the JARD site on nearby properties; in particular, the Bennington State Office Building and Vermont Veteran's Home. To date we have no evidence of a causal relationship between the contamination at the former JARD site and the environmental issues at the Bennington State Office Building. Additionally, the VTDEC, with the assistance of the USEPA, has focused its efforts over the last decade on protecting the environment through a series of remedial projects and increasing the feasibility of redeveloping the JARD site and the surrounding area, by assuring the protectiveness of the remedial projects.

With respect to the causal relationship, we mentioned in our initial response that we had collaborated with the Dept of Health in January, 2007, to evaluate the possibility that contaminants of concern associated with the JARD site were present in the vicinity of the state facilities, and found no such evidence in the soil samples collected. Since then, we have discussed recent groundwater monitoring and sampling done for the Dept of Buildings and General Services in relation to the development of geothermal energy at the State Office Building and Veteran's Home campus. Groundwater contours collected indicated that groundwater at the State Office Buildings and Veteran's home is running parallel to the Roaring Branch of the Walloomsac, just as it is on the JARD site and also groundwater sampling results indicated that there was no evidence of PCB or other JARD-related contaminants detected in groundwater. The soil sampling and groundwater assessments lead us to conclude that there is no relationship between the contamination found at the former JARD site and the past issues at the state complex.

Currently, the VT DEC is evaluating migration and potential discharge of PCB contaminated groundwater from the JARD site. This project is intended to better characterize the existing conditions, as well as to ensure that the redevelopment of the former JARD property is done appropriately and with adequate safeguards for the JARD property and the adjacent areas. We know that the JARD site is currently impacting the environment. We do not know the magnitude of the impact, but will share the results of the investigation as it progresses.

George Desch, Director of the Waste Management and Prevention Division, is prepared to attend the Sept 10th meeting of the JFC and respond to any questions. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please feel to contact him or Trish Coppolino directly (241-3491 or 241-3967, respectively) by email at patricia.coppolino@state.vt.us, or in writing at the above address.

CC: Commissioner Wendy Davis, M.D.
Commissioner Gerald J. Myers