



**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation**

*Agency of Natural Resources*

Commissioner's Office

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July 11, 2011

Subject: Vermont Asbestos Group Mine

Dear Community Members,

I invite you to attend one of the upcoming informational meetings about the Vermont Asbestos Group Mine that will be taking place on Monday, July 25th at the Eden Elementary School at 6:00 pm and on Tuesday July 26th at the Lowell Elementary School at 7:00 pm. The purpose of these meetings is to provide the community with an update of site activities and more information about the Superfund process. Also, the meeting will provide an opportunity for you ask to questions of me, my staff, and representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about the Superfund process, and why we are evaluating the possibility of placing the site on the National Priorities List, also known as the Superfund List. We are actively soliciting community involvement in that evaluation.

From our perspective, action is necessary because there is ongoing erosion of the asbestos tailings and waste rock at the site that is impairing downstream waters and wetlands. These impairments are violations of the Vermont Water Quality Standards and the Federal Clean Water Act. Without stabilization measures, asbestos-containing wastes will migrate further downstream. Superfund is being considered because the State of Vermont does not have sufficient resources to properly characterize the site and provide an effective long-term remedy to stabilize these large piles.

We have prepared a fact sheet and frequently asked question sheet that provide more information about why Superfund is being considered, the Superfund process, and a summary of past investigations, and upcoming activities. These documents will be available at the meeting, prior to the meeting at the Eden and Lowell Town Clerk's office, and on our website.

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/sms/VAG.htm>

If you have questions about the status of the mine site, I encourage you to attend one of these meetings, review our fact sheet, and visit our website. In short, your participation in the process is welcomed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DK Mears", written over a horizontal line.

David K. Mears  
Commissioner