



**Department of Environmental Conservation  
Waste Management Division-Sites Management Section**

**Community Update #1**

**Rhoades Salvage-ABC Metals  
Milton, VT**

**Spring 2009**

***Introduction:***

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management Division, Sites Management Section (SMS) manages investigations and remediation of properties where a release or suspected release of hazardous substances has occurred. The primary authority for this oversight can be found in 10 V.S.A. Section 6615.

The SMS has been investigating the Rhoades Salvage/ABC Metals facility due to the alleged violations of hazardous material and solid waste regulations. As part of this process, we have worked closely with the VT Attorney General's Office, Vermont Health Department, the US Environmental Protection Agency Removals Program (USEPA), Agency of Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the Milton Health Officer.

***Background:***



Rhoades Salvage / ABC Metals is an active auto salvage and metals recycling facility located at 15 Shirley Avenue in Milton, VT. It is owned and operated by Gilbert and Blanche Rhoades. The facility consists of several buildings situated on 5.30 acres. This facility also contains a large stockpile of tires, estimated at 200,000 tires.

The facility is surrounded by mixed residential and commercial properties. In the immediate area there are a number of residential properties served by private drinking water wells. Hobbs Pond and Beaver Brook border to the east/southeast of this facility. Hobbs Pond is approximately 2.6 acres in size and has been designated as a Class II wetland. The pond drains to the south and eventually enters into Mallets Creek.

Site Assessment:

Potential concerns for this facility are releases of hazardous substances from the salvage yard to soils, groundwater and surface water bodies. The SMS is assessing this facility to determine if a release of hazardous substances has occurred, and if so, if the release is posing an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment. The SMS has asked for the assistance of the US EPA with this assessment. To date, soil, groundwater, drinking water, surface water, sediment and fish samples have been collected for chemical analysis. ATSDR has reviewed the soil, sediment and surface water test results from October 2008 EPA investigation and prepared a "Health Consultation."

Next Steps:

- April/May 2009: The SMS has an environmental consulting firm to resample three private water supply wells in the area-April/May 2009.
- May 2009: EPA Removals Program will collect additional soil samples from several residential properties and sediment/surface water samples from Hobbs Pond.
- May 2009: ATSDR review of the fish tissue data.
- The ANR is continuing to work with the Attorney General's Office on the legal issues.

Community Involvement: A local citizen's group Milton CLEAN formed in June 2008. The ANR has met with this group and will continue to work with them and get information out as quickly as possible.

For more information, please contact:

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