

# CLF NEWS

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT TO WORK WITH MINERAL PROCESSOR IN VERMONT**

### **CLF TO GIVE OMYA'S HANDLING OF TAILINGS A FRESH LOOK**

**Conservation Law Foundation's "CLF Ventures" is working with Omya Industries Inc. to promote the safe and environmentally-responsible management of Omya's tailings in Southern Vermont.**

#### **WHO WE ARE:**

Conservation Law Foundation is New England's oldest and largest environmental advocacy group. CLF uses law, science and community activism to stop the destruction of New England's land and waters, and to protect New England's cities and towns from pollution and sprawling growth.

CLF Ventures is a consulting arm of Conservation Law Foundation that creates market-based solutions to environmental problems. CLFV has a proven track record as a technical, community and regulatory advisor for companies and groups seeking environmentally-sound business practices. CLFV has helped communities redevelop polluted land and crafted environmentally sound solutions for companies. All fees CLF Ventures generates support CLF's work throughout New England.

#### **OUR ROLE:**

CLF Ventures is working with Omya to develop options for the safe handling of Omya's tailings. CLF Ventures will undertake an independent review and work to create a solution that protects public health and the environment. CLFV will provide a fresh, independent and rigorous look at Omya's practices. Serving partly as a technical advisor, but also as an independent intermediary, CLFV will seek to assure that all environmental and community concerns are responsibly addressed by OMYA.

#### **WHY:**

CLF Ventures sees a good opportunity to help craft a solid environmental solution to years of contentious disputes and unresolved permitting battles. CLFV will help sort through the legal, technical and health issues. CLFV believes that the implementation of

sound environmental practices is good business. In Omya, CLFV sees a company that is willing to take a fresh look at an existing situation and is open to new ideas.

Currently, the Vermont Law School Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic is representing neighbors of Omya to force Omya to meet strict waste regulations. For years, neighbors have voiced concerns that the waste is not properly managed. The Law Clinic sees CLF's involvement as a positive step.

"CLF is a strong advocate for Vermont's environment. We are cautiously optimistic that their efforts will help to bring about a lasting solution," Julia Huff, Assistant Director of the Clinic, said. "CLF providing an independent review and technical expertise is a good first step," she added.

"I wish CLF luck" Annette Smith, Executive Director of Vermonters for a Clean Environment said. Smith has been one of Omya's most outspoken critics. "If CLFV can work with OMYA and the community to address its environmental challenges, that would be a victory for everyone. The people of Vermont deserve businesses that will be good neighbors and good stewards of our environment," she added.