

## Letters to the Editor

B-2 January 20, 2011

### AgriMark Not A Good Neighbor

It is hard to imagine anyone threatening their neighbors' water systems, or contaminating extended grazing/growing fields.

And yet that is exactly what our corporate neighbor, AgriMark (d.b.a. Cabot Creamery), is doing. In fact, has been doing for years as a result of its failed commitment to have installed an onsite wastewater treatment facility. It is important to note that they received a \$2 million federal grant in the 1980s to do it. To date, there is still no such onsite waste-disposal system in operation.

Instead, AgriMark has: 1) been issued 13 environmental violations over the past 15 years for negligent safety practices;

2) been fined twice (1983/2005) for toxic waste spills into the Winooski River;

3) continues their practice of hauling waste offsite and spraying it out over further-reaching fields (industrial wastewater once estimated at 42,000 gallons a day including whey, today it's at 150,000 gallon-a day minus the whey;

4) dismissed any impact (i.e., respiratory and digestive problems) or warnings of possible carcinogenic mixtures, from expert witnesses, arising from the industrial cleaning-chemicals in the waste saturating the fields and entering into waterways throughout the state; and

5) has been drilling wells without standard testing to ensure that the rate of water withdrawal not affect the water resources of local farms, neighbors, tributaries to the Winooski, or to ensure future water needs can be met despite neigh-

bor's concerns of diminishing water in their wells.

One only has to wonder where AgriMark's sense of honor comes into play while promoting the Cabot product-line as being clean, green, Vermont products.

If we are to retain our respected reputation as the "Green" Mountain State, it's time AgriMark lives up to Vermont's green name. And isn't it about time that our corporate neighbor act upon the basic principles of "corporate citizenship," namely: to respect the land and water rights of one's neighbors, and be responsible for the effects that their chemical waste has on plant-life, animals, and humans?

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