

**Pittsford Planning Commission Hearing – Omya Tailings Management Facility
November 17, 2022**

Board Members Present: Kevin Blow, Mike Norris, Mark Pape, Chuck Charbonneau, Donna Wilson, Rick Conway, Derek Blow

Others In Attendance: Dave Cooper, Mike Laurent, Thomas Brown, Chris Fish, Joel Tom Tate, Jeff Biasuzzi

1. Omya Tailings Management Facility

The hearing was open by Kevin Blow – Board Chair at 7:02PM.

Kevin Blow stated Application #2248 has been submitted by Omya. The hearing has been duly warned according to State statute. There were no attendees present via Zoom.

Rick Conway asked all to raise their right hand and swore in all who wished to speak at the hearing.

Mike Laurent, Engineering and Operations Manager at Omya plant, and Dave Cooper, Attorney representing Omya, were present to discuss the project.

Jeff Biasuzzi provided a site plan review and advised the application is for an expansion of the Omya tailing management facility and the experts are present to answer any questions and turned the floor over to the applicants.

Mike Laurent stated the first application on the tailings was done 9 or 10 years ago. Mr. Laurent provided an overview of the process and noted the focus is to remove impurities from the stone that generates a by-product that is tailings. There is a tailings management facility that dewater the material and convey it out to a landfill. Since the late 1970's, they have been removing impurities and a different process was done in 2010 to mechanically dewatering the tailings and put out as a dry material. There is heavy equipment that grades and manages it. This recertification is about extending what has been done. The certification expires next year and they are going through the permitting process that includes Act 250 and other permitting. It is hoped to be completed well in advance of the certification expiration next fall to continue what they are doing. They have a lot going on in the process and are focused on the tailings management facility itself that includes dewatering and managing the tailings on site. Mr. Laurent is appreciative of Act 250's previous administrator who had asked Omya to develop a master plan. This plan has 3 phases that are permitted by the regulatory agencies and Omya is now seeking phase 2 and 3. Omya is looking for the same operation and permit positions and is an extension of what is being done to date. This permitting process started in 2010 with amendments along the way and the new permit needs to be done prior to next year. Nothing changes in terms of operation and permitting conditions. They are looking to go further south and encompass areas to the east of the location.

Dave Cooper stated the Town's zoning has a provision if there are slopes of more than 12%, the Zoning Administrator needs to make a determination. They reached out to Mr. Biasuzzi and he suggested coming before the Planning Commission regarding this application. As far as the criteria itself, the traffic will not be impacted and most material will be taken out on a conveyor. Landscaping does not come into play. The one issue is stormwater management and this site is as well managed as any site in the State. They route their stormwater that is recycled back into the plant.

Rick Conway stated this Commission is limited and defined, and the applicant has touched on everything. Mr. Conway asked if there is any noise or glare issues. Mr. Laurent stated the material composition is the same and has the same operation and hours of operation. There is no extra lighting and is managed in daytime hours. Derek Blow asked the estimated length of time the new tailing pit will take care of their needs. Mr. Laurent advised they are going for the remaining onsite capacity that gets them 25+ years with the current production capacity. The tailings are used for soil

and agriculture operations but it competes with a similar product and is expensive to haul. Mr. Conway noted it is an excellent site plan.

Mark Pape asked why the initial facility was lined and the proposed facility is not. Mr. Laurent advised the initial ones were lined as they did not have the science and data, but it is now being constructed with a geosynthetic line. They have collected groundwater and was granted a line waiver that was instituted. They use a detergent to remove impurities and the reason to dewater is that residual detergent comes back in the water with less residual chemical. They will continue to ask for the continuation of the liner waiver that comes with conditions of continued monitoring and none of the permit conditions have changed to assure there are no impacts.

A motion was made by Mike Norris and seconded by Rick Conway to approve the Omya application as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

A motion was made by Chuck Charbonneau and seconded by Rick Conway to adjourn the hearing at 7:20PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary

Approved by,

The Pittsford Planning Commission