

My name is Annette Smith. I am Executive Director of Vermonters for a Clean Environment. Thank you to the Chair and committee for hearing our presentation today on this important issue.

Vermonters for a Clean Environment has been working in Vermont communities for 15 years on a variety of issues that include gravel pits and quarries. We have extensive experience with mining issues including working in a collaborative process with Omya in Rutland County, and with the mining industry in the development of new mining waste rules.

Every few years, we have received phone calls from neighbors of slate quarries, always referred to us by Act 250, from which this legislature exempted the slate industry in the mid-1990s.

The most recent outreach was from a man named Lou from Wells who was referred to VCE by the chair of the Natural Resources Board.

We followed up by taking a tour of the area, and then hired former DEC wetlands staffer Lindsay Harris to conduct an investigation.

Lou, who has health issues that prevent him from being here in person, has prepared 10 minute video testimony that we will watch first. Then Lindsay will present the results of her investigation. And one of the first people who contacted VCE a decade ago, Jayne Nicklaw of Castleton, will follow to describe her experience living in the slate belt.

April 20, 2014 — first driving tour

<https://picasaweb.google.com/114098560210816181304/PoultneyWellsNYSlateApril202014?authkey=Gv1sRgCKfu1tLiqdeqMQ>

July 12, 2014 — aerial video – begins in West Pawlet flying north on the west side of Lake St. Catherine to Fair Haven along the state border showing quarrying activity in New York and Vermont, then south on the east side of Lake St. Catherine. Mute the volume.

<https://youtu.be/4WbsYbNNz-A>

July 12, 2014 — aerial photos – as above

<https://picasaweb.google.com/114098560210816181304/July122014SlateQuarries?authkey=Gv1sRgCIL6ntXSud7MPw>

Oct. 2, 2014 — driving tour of slate area

<https://picasaweb.google.com/114098560210816181304/SlateQuarriesInVermontOct22014?authkey=Gv1sRgCJ-Uo6S2-bXmrgE>

Dec. 9, 2014 — driving tour of slate area

<https://picasaweb.google.com/104719122126920862685/20141209?authkey=Gv1sRgCKvS-PLolPDwDA>

Dec. 29, 2014 — driving tour of slate area

https://picasaweb.google.com/104719122126920862685/December29201402?authkey=Gv1sRgCM_W6fHb092DFQ

April 12, 2015 – drone camera flyover video

<https://youtu.be/EZySOr7qV0A>