DISCLAIMER

The full text of certain NPDES permits and the associated fact sheets has been made available to provide online access to this public information. EPA is making permits and fact sheets available electronically to provide convenient access for interested public parties and as a reference for permit writers. The ownership of these documents lies with the permitting authority, typically a State with an authorized NPDES program.

While EPA makes every effort to ensure that this web site remains current and contains the final version of the active permit, we cannot guarantee it is so. For example, there may be some delay in posting modifications made after a permit is issued. Also note that not all active permits are currently available electronically. Only permits and fact sheets for which the full text has been provided to Headquarters by the permitting authority may be made available. Headquarters has requested the full text only for permits as they are issued or reissued, beginning November 1, 2002.

Please contact the appropriate permitting authority (either a State or EPA Regional office) prior to acting on this information to ensure you have the most up-to-date permit and/or fact sheet. EPA recognizes the official version of a permit or fact sheet to be the version designated as such and appropriately stored by the respective permitting authority.

The documents are gathered from all permitting authorities, and all documents thus obtained are made available electronically, with no screening for completeness or quality. Thus, availability on the website does not constitute endorsement by EPA.
October 8, 2003

Roger Thieken
Rock-Tenn Company
PO Box 98
Sheldon Springs, VT 05485

Re: Final Discharge Permit #3-1118

Dear Mr Thieken:

Enclosed is your copy of the above referenced permit, which has been signed by the delegated representative for the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Please read the permit carefully and familiarize yourself with all its terms and conditions. Your attention is particularly directed to those conditions which may require written responses by certain dates.

One comment letter by Conservation Law Foundation was received during the public notice period. The Department has responded to those comments in a Response Summary (see attached). If you have any questions concerning your permit, please contact Carol Carpenter at 241-3828.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Kooiker
Chief, Discharge Permits Section

Enclosure
DISCHARGE PERMIT

In compliance with the provisions of the Vermont Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, (10 V.S.A. Chapter 47 §1251 et. seq) and the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq),

Rock-Tenn Company
PO Box 98, Mill Street
Sheldon Springs, VT 05485

(hereinafter referred to as the "permittee") is authorized, by the Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources, to discharge from a facility located at:

1 Mill Street
Sheldon Springs, Vermont

to the Missisquoi River, Class B at the point of discharge

in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in Parts I, II, III hereof.

This permit shall become effective on October 1, 2003.

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire on

September 30, 2008.

Signed this 8th day of October, 2003.

Jeffrey Wennberg, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Conservation

By
Brian D Kooiker, Chief
Discharge Permits Section
PART I

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS:

1. During the period beginning on October 1, 2003 and lasting through September 30, 2008, the permittee is authorized to discharge from outfall serial number S/N 003: Treated process wastewater combined with paper process wastes and cooling waters. Such discharges shall be limited by the permittee as specified below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTIC</th>
<th>DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS</th>
<th>MONITORING REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>annual total</td>
<td>mon average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow</td>
<td>2.5 mgd</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemical Oxygen</td>
<td>739 lbs</td>
<td>1300 / 1487 lbs (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demand (BOD₅) (1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Suspended Solids (TSS) (1)</td>
<td>1226 lbs</td>
<td>2453 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Phosphorus</td>
<td>2777 lbs (3)</td>
<td>0.8 mg/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turbidity (4)</td>
<td></td>
<td>100 NTU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>Between 6.5 - 8.5 Standard Units</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Clarifier influent analysis for both BOD and TSS shall be completed at the same frequency as required for the effluent BOD and TSS analysis. Samples for influent BOD and TSS shall be taken at the same location.

(2) During the period May 1 through October 31, the daily maximum BOD limitation shall be 1300 lbs/day. From November 1 through April 30, the daily maximum BOD limitation shall be 1487 lbs/day.

(3) Total Annual Pounds of Phosphorus discharged shall be defined as the sum of all Total Monthly Pounds of Phosphorus discharged for the calendar year. Total Monthly Pounds of Phosphorus discharged shall be calculated as follows:

(Monthly Average Phosphorus Concentration) x (Total Monthly Flow) x 8.34. (See Total Phosphorus monitoring report form WR-43-PO4.)

(4) See Special Condition B.1.

Samples taken in compliance with the monitoring requirements specified above shall be taken at the following location: Following the DAF unit and prior to discharge.
2. During the period beginning on October 1, 2003 and lasting through September 30, 2008, the permittee is authorized to discharge from outfall serial number S/N 005: Non-contact cooling water from the emergency diesel generator. Such discharges shall be limited by the permittee as specified below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTIC</th>
<th>DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS</th>
<th>MONITORING REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>monthly average</td>
<td>daily maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flow (1)</td>
<td>See (2) below.</td>
<td>Each Discharge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>96 °F</td>
<td>Each Discharge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) This flow is only authorized with a minimum flow of 200 cfs in the mill tailrace.

(2) The permittee may, during power outages, discharge up to an amount not to exceed 2.5 mgd, daily maximum, in combination with S/N 003.

Samples taken in compliance with the monitoring requirements specified above shall be taken at a convenient point prior to discharge.

B. SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

1. In accordance with Section 2-04 of the Vermont Water Quality Standards (effective 7/2/00), this permit hereby establishes a mixing zone for turbidity not to exceed 200 feet from the point of S/N 003 discharge. Within the mixing zone, Section 3-04 B.1. of the Water Quality Standards is waived in accordance with Section 2-04.

2. The effluent shall not have concentrations or combinations of contaminants including oil, grease, scum, foam, or floating solids which would cause a violation of the water quality standards of the receiving waters.

3. The use of chlorophenolic-based biocides in the production process is prohibited.

4. The permittee shall conduct a program of sludge monitoring and sludge removal from the treatment lagoon. The sludge monitoring program shall include measurements of settling zone sludge depths taken at least annually and the results shall be submitted to the Department with the corresponding monthly discharge monitoring report.

5. The permittee shall maintain a submersible pump in the wet well of the underdrain discharge of sufficient capacity to pump the volume and rate equivalent to the ‘worst case’ liner breach previously experienced at the facility. The underdrain pump shall pump the collected wet well waters back into the lagoon.
The permittee shall maintain a meter for the purposes of recording the amount of time the submersible pump is operated. The permittee shall inspect the wet well and record the run-time meter reading weekly. Records of these weekly readings shall be maintained at the facility. If the weekly run-time reading changes from the previous reading, the readings and an explanation for the changes shall be reported with the corresponding monthly monitoring report. If the change in readings is due to a liner breach then the permittee shall notify the Department within 24 hours, or by the next business day, and follow this notification with a written report within 5 calendar days.

6. The permittee is limited to using those chemicals which are similar in composition, concentration, and toxicity to those identified in the permit application unless substantially different chemicals are approved by the Department. A significant increase in the dosage rate or a substantial change in the chemicals used must be reviewed by the Department to assure that no adverse impact will occur on either the treatment facility or the receiving water. A substantial change in chemicals shall be defined as chemicals that are not similar in composition, concentration, and toxicity to those identified in the application.

7. If the Department establishes a wasteload allocation for the permittee's discharge to the Missisquoi River, this permit will be amended to include Ultimate Oxygen Demand (UOD) effluent limitations for the period from June 1 - September 30.

C. WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY AND PRIORITY POLLUTANT TESTING:

The permittee shall complete the following Whole Effluent Toxicity testing on S/N 003:

a. One two-species (*Pimephales promelas* and *Ceriodaphnia dubia*) acute/chronic Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) test, conducted on a 24-hour composite effluent sample taken during the month of October 2003. The results shall be submitted to the Department by December 31, 2003.

b. One two-species (*Pimephales promelas* and *Ceriodaphnia dubia*) acute/chronic Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) test, conducted on a 24-hour composite effluent sample taken during the month of June 2006. The results shall be submitted to the Department by September 30, 2006.

The permittee shall complete and submit to the Department results of a priority pollutant scan on S/N 003 by December 31, 2003. Priority pollutants include the volatile organics, acid and base/neutral compounds, and pesticides listed in Table II and the metals included in Table III of 40 CFR Part 122, Appendix D. In addition, any pollutants listed in Table IV that are expected to be present in the discharge must be sampled.

Based upon the results of these tests or any other tests conducted on this discharge, this permit may be amended to include effluent limitations, or to require additional testing, or to require a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation.

Whole Effluent Toxicity tests shall be conducted in accordance with the methods recommended by EPA: Peltier, W. And Weber, C.I., *Methods for Measuring Acute Toxicity of Effluents to Freshwater and Marine Organisms* (the most recent edition) and Lewis, PA, DJ Klemm, JM Lazorchak, TJ Norberg-King, WH Peltier, MA Heber (Editors). "Short-Term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms" (the most recent edition).
D. REAPPLICATION:

If the permittee desires to continue to discharge after the expiration date of this permit, he shall apply on the application forms then in use at least 180 days before the permit expires.

Reapply for a Discharge Permit by March 31, 2008.

E. OPERATING FEES:

This discharge is subject to operating fees. The permittee shall submit the operating fees in accordance with the procedures provided by the Secretary.

F. MONITORING AND REPORTING:

1. Representative Sampling:

Samples and measurements taken as required herein shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge.

2. Reporting:

The Permittee is required to submit monitoring results as specified on a Discharge Monitoring Report (Form WR-43). Reports are due on the 15th day of each month, beginning with the month following the date of signing.

If, in any reporting period, there has been no discharge, the permittee must submit that information by the report due date.

Signed copies of these, and all other reports required herein, shall be submitted to the Secretary at the following address:

Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
Wastewater Management Division
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0405

3. Definitions:

For purposes of this permit, the following definitions shall apply:

Average - The arithmetic mean of values of analyses from samples taken at the frequency required for such parameters over a specific operating period.

Grab Sample - An individual sample collected in a period of less than 15 minutes.

Composite Sample - A sample consisting of a minimum of one grab sample per hour collected over a normal operating day and combined proportional to flow, or a sample continuously collected proportional to flow over a normal operating day.
**Daily Discharge** - The discharge of a pollutant measured during a calendar day or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents the calendar day for purposes of sampling.

For pollutants with limitations expressed in pounds, the daily discharge is calculated as the total pounds of pollutants discharged over the day.

For pollutants with limitations expressed in mg/l, the daily discharge is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant over the day.

**Maximum Day** (maximum daily discharge limitation) - The highest allowable "daily discharge" (mg/l, lbs., or gallons).

**Monthly Average** (average monthly discharge limitation) - The highest allowable average of daily discharges (mg/l, lbs., or gallons) over a calendar month, calculated as the sum of all daily discharges (mg/l, lbs., or gallons) measured during a calendar month, divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that month.

**Implementation Schedule** - An abatement program consisting of:

- A plan of intended design, construction, and operation of new or modified facilities to treat the effluent; and
- A timetable setting forth the dates by which all sources of water pollution must be in compliance with the effluent limitations of this permit. The schedule shall include (if appropriate) interim and final dates to accomplish:
  
  (1) Completion of preliminary plans and engineering report
  (2) Completion of final plans
  (3) Contract Award
  (4) Commencement of construction
  (5) Completion of construction and commencement of operation
  (6) Attainment of operational level

**Instantaneous Maximum** - A value not to be exceeded in any grab sample.

4. **Test Procedures:**

Test procedures for the analysis of pollutants shall conform to regulations published pursuant to Section 304 (g) of the Clean Water Act, under which such procedures may be required. Guidelines establishing these test procedures have been published in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 136 (Federal Register, Vol. 56, No. 195, October 8, 1991 or as amended).

5. **Recording of Results:**

For each measurement or sample taken pursuant to the requirements of this permit, the permittee shall record the following information:

- The exact place, date, and time of sampling;
b. The dates and times the analyses were performed;
c. The person(s) who performed the analyses;
d. The analytical techniques and methods used;
e. The records of monitoring activities and results, including all instrumentation and calibration and maintenance records;
f. The original calculation and data bench sheets of the operator who performed analysis of the influent or effluent pursuant to requirements of Section I(A) of this permit.
g. The results of all required analyses.

6. Additional Monitoring by Permittee:

If the permittee monitors any pollutant at the location(s) designated herein more frequently than required by this permit, using approved analytical methods as specified above, the results of such monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the values required in the Discharge Monitoring Report Form WR-43. Such increased frequency shall also be indicated.

7. Records Retention:

All records and information resulting from the monitoring activities required by this permit including all records of analyses performed, calibration and maintenance of instrumentation, and recordings from continuous monitoring instrumentation shall be retained for a minimum of three (3) years, and shall be submitted to Department representatives upon request. This period shall be extended during the course of unresolved litigation regarding the discharge of pollutants or when requested by the Secretary.

PART II

A. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Change in Discharge:

All discharges authorized herein shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit. The discharge of any pollutant identified in this permit more frequently than or at a level in excess of that authorized shall constitute a violation of this permit. Any anticipated facility expansions, production increases, or process modifications which will result in new, different, or increased discharges of pollutants must be reported by submission of a new permit application or, if such changes will not violate the effluent limitations specified in this permit, by notice to the permit issuing authority of such changes. Following such notice, the permit may be modified to specify and limit any pollutants not previously limited.

2. Noncompliance Notification:

If, for any reason, the permittee does not comply with or will be unable to comply with any daily maximum effluent limitation specified in this permit, the permittee shall
notify the Secretary within 24 hours of becoming aware of such condition or by the next business day, and shall provide the Secretary with the following information, in writing, within five (5) days.

a. A description of the discharge and cause of noncompliance; and

b. The period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times; or, if not corrected, the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue, and steps being taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncomplying discharge.

3. Facilities Operation:

The permittee shall, at all times, maintain in good working order and operate as efficiently as possible all treatment or control facilities or systems installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit.

The operation of these facilities shall be performed only by qualified personnel. The personnel shall be certified as required under the Vermont Water Pollution Abatement Facility Operator Certification Regulations.

4. Quality Control:

The permittee shall calibrate and perform maintenance procedures on all monitoring and analytical instrumentation at regular intervals to ensure accuracy of measurements or shall ensure that both activities will be conducted. The permittee shall keep records of these activities and shall provide such records upon request of the Secretary. The permittee shall verify the accuracy of the flow measurement device no less than weekly and report the results on the monthly report forms. The acceptable limit of error is ± 10%.

Samples shall be representative of the volume and quality of effluent discharged over the sampling and reporting period. All samples are to be taken during normal operating hours. The permittee shall identify the effluent sampling location used for each discharge.

5. Adverse Impact:

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize any adverse impact to waters of the State resulting from noncompliance with any conditions specified in this permit, including such accelerated or additional monitoring as necessary to determine the nature and impact of the noncomplying discharge.

6. Bypassing:

Any diversion from or bypass of facilities necessary to maintain compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit is prohibited, except where unavoidable to prevent loss of life or severe property damage. The permittee shall notify the Secretary within 24 hours of each such diversion or bypass. The permittee shall also submit a written
notification within five (5) days of the occurrence. The written notification shall include the information as specified in Noncompliance Notification, Part II, paragraph A. 2.

7. Removed Substances:

Solids, sludges, filter backwash, or other pollutants removed in the course of treatment or control of wastewaters shall be disposed of in accord with 10 V.S.A., Chapter 159 and with the terms and conditions of any certification, interim or final, transitional operation authorization or order issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A., Chapter 159 that is in effect on the effective date of this permit or is issued during the term of this permit.

8. Power Failure:

In order to maintain compliance with the effluent limitations and prohibitions of this permit, the permittee shall either:

a. Provide an alternative power source sufficient to operate the wastewater control facilities, or if such alternative power source is not in existence,

b. Halt, reduce, or otherwise control production and/or all discharges upon the reduction, loss, or failure of the primary source of power to the wastewater control facilities.

9. Emergency Pollution Permits:

Maintenance activities, or emergencies resulting from equipment failure or malfunction, including power outages, which result in an effluent which exceeds the effluent limitations specified herein, shall be considered a violation of the conditions of this permit, unless the permittee immediately applies for, and obtains, an emergency pollution permit under the provisions of 10 V.S.A., Chapter 47, §1268. The permittee shall notify the Department of the emergency situation by the next working day.

10 V.S.A., Chapter 47, §1268 reads as follows:

"When a discharge permit holder finds that pollution abatement facilities require repairs, replacement, or other corrective action in order for them to continue to meet standards specified in the permit, he may apply in the manner specified by the secretary for an emergency pollution permit for a term sufficient to effect repairs, replacements or other corrective action. The permit may be issued without prior public notice if the nature of the emergency will not provide sufficient time to give notice; provided that the secretary shall give public notice as soon as possible but in any event no later than five days after the effective date of the emergency pollution permit. No emergency pollution permit shall be issued unless the applicant certifies and the Secretary finds that:

(1) there is no present, reasonable alternative means of disposing of the waste other than by discharging it into the waters of the State during the limited period of time of the emergency;
the denial of an emergency pollution permit would work an extreme hardship
upon the applicant;

(3) the granting of an emergency pollution permit will result in some public benefit;

(4) the discharge will not be unreasonably harmful to the quality of the receiving
waters;

(5) the cause or reason for the emergency is not due to willful or intended acts or
omissions of the applicant."

Application shall be made to the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources,
Department of Environmental Conservation, 103 South Main Street - Wastewater
Management Division, Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0405.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Right of Entry:

The permittee shall allow the Secretary and other Agency personnel, upon presentation of
proper credentials:

a. To enter upon the permittee's premises where an effluent source is located or in
   which any records are required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this
   permit;

b. At reasonable times to have access to and copy any records required to be kept
   under the terms and conditions of this permit; to inspect any monitoring
   equipment or monitoring method required in this permit; and to sample any
   discharge of pollutants.

2. Transfer of Ownership or Control:

This permit is not transferable without prior written approval of the Secretary. All
application and operating fees must be paid in full prior to transfer of this permit. In the
even of any change in control or ownership of facilities from which the authorized
discharges emanate, the permittee shall provide a copy of this permit to the succeeding
owner or controller and shall send written notification of the change in ownership or
control to the Secretary. The permittee shall also inform the prospective owner or
operator of their responsibility to make an application for transfer of this permit. This
application must include as a minimum; a written statement from the prospective owner
or operator certifying:

a. The conditions of the business' operation that contribute to, or affect, the
discharge will not be materially different under the new ownership.

b. The prospective owner or operator has read and is familiar with the terms of the
permit and agrees to comply with all terms and conditions of the permit.
c. The prospective owner or operator has adequate funding to operate and maintain the treatment system and remain in compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit.

d. The date of the sale or transfer of the business.

The Department may require additional information dependent upon the current status of the facility operation, maintenance, and permit compliance.

3. Availability of Reports:

Except for data determined to be confidential under 10 V.S.A. §1259(c), all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the State Water Pollution Control Agency. As required by the Act, effluent data shall not be considered confidential. Knowingly making any false statement on any such report may result in the imposition of criminal penalties as provided for 10 V.S.A. in §1275 (b).

4. Permit Modification:

After notice and opportunity for a hearing, this permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked in whole or in part during its term for cause including, but not limited to, the following:

a. Violation of any terms or conditions of this permit;

b. Obtaining this permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts; or

c. A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge.

5. Toxic Pollutants:

Notwithstanding Part II, paragraph B. 4. above, if a toxic effluent standard or prohibition (including any schedule of compliance specified in such effluent standard or prohibition) is established under Section 307 (a) of the Clean Water Act for a toxic pollutant which is present in the discharge, and such standard or prohibition is more stringent than any limitation for such pollutant in this permit, this permit shall be revised or modified in accordance with the toxic effluent standard or prohibition and the permittee so notified.

6. Civil and Criminal Liability:

Except as provided in permit conditions on "Bypassing" (Part II, paragraph A. 6.), "Power Failures" (Part II, paragraph A. 8.), and "Emergency Pollution Permits" (Part II, paragraph A. 9.), nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance. Civil penalties, as authorized under 10 V.S.A. §1274 and 10 V.S.A. §8010, shall not exceed $10,000 a day for each day of violation. Criminal penalties, as authorized under 10 V.S.A. §1275, shall not exceed
$25,000 for each day of violation, imprisonment for up to six months, or both.

7. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability:

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject under 10 V.S.A. §1281.

8. State Laws:

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable State law or regulation under authority preserved by Section 510 of the Clean Water Act.

9. Property Rights:

Issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of Federal, State, or local laws or regulations.

10. Severability:

The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit, or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this permit, shall not be affected thereby.

11. Authority:

This permit is issued under authority of 10 V.S.A. §1259 which states that: "No person shall discharge any waste, substance, or material into waters of the State, nor shall any person discharge any waste, substance, or material into an injection well or discharge into a publicly owned treatment works any waste which interferes with, passes through without treatment, or is otherwise incompatible with those works or would have a substantial adverse effect on those works or on water quality, without first obtaining a permit for that discharge from the Secretary", and under the authority of Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, as amended.
PART III

A. OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

This permit shall be modified, or alternatively, revoked and reissued, to comply with any applicable effluent standard or limitation issued or approved under Sections 301(b) (2) (C), and (D), 304(b) (2), and 307 (a) (2) of the Clean Water Act, if the effluent standard or limitation so issued or approved:

1. Contains different conditions or is otherwise more stringent than any effluent limitation in the permit; or

2. Controls any pollutant not limited in the permit.

The permit as modified or reissued under this paragraph shall also contain any other requirements of the Vermont Water Pollution Control Act then applicable.