Green Mountain Spinnery, a VEAP Success Story

The Green Mountain Spinnery operates a custom wool and mohair processing facility in Putney, Vermont. One step in the conversion of the raw fibers to finished yarn involves washing the fibers to remove grease, dirt and other contaminants present on the fibers. Due to the high level of grease present on the fibers, the Spinnery was unable to meet the limits in their wastewater discharge permit for oil and grease. The owners of the Spinnery contacted one of partners in the Vermont Environmental Assistance Partnership (VEAP) to request assistance in identifying a solution to the problem. VEAP partners worked with the Spinnery and Putney town officials, to resolve the problem. VEAP partners assisted the owners of the Spinnery in researching, testing, and evaluating the various options available for removing grease from their wastewater. The problem was resolved through modifications of the washing process to reduce the volume of contaminated water requiring treatment and treating the remaining wastewater with a small ultrafiltration system prior to discharge. The system has been operational for almost three months, during which time the grease level has been well within permit limits.

“For more than five years we at the Spinnery had worked unsuccessfully to solve our wastewater problems. VEAP assisted us in developing a permanent solution to these problems. Throughout the process, VEAP was enormously helpful; it’s hard to imagine how we could have stayed in business without their support. I encourage any business with an environmental concern to call VEAP for assistance.”

David Ritchie - Co-Owner Green Mountain Spinnery

Vermont Stormwater Permitting Update:

The first draft of the VT-Agency of Natural Resources proposed new Stormwater Program was released on December 12, 2000. As proposed, the program will be a sweeping and substantial change in how almost all sectors of the Vermont business community handle and manage stormwater (agriculture and forestry will be exempted). The program will apply to nearly all residential and commercial development, road construction and redevelopment of previously developed sites. Vermont's new stormwater program (housed in the Department of Environmental Conservation’s Water Quality Division) is currently in the development phase. Staff are in the process of developing reports for the legislature which will provide details of the new program. They will then proceed to the rule development process. The program will have new, enhanced design standards and the threshold for requiring permits may be lowered. Contact Pete LaFlamme, WQ Division VT DEC, 103 South Main St., Waterbury, VT 05671-0408 or phone Pete at: 802-241-3770 for further information.