

## Bennington State Office Building • Action Timeline

- reports and weekly updates are available at -  
**HealthVermont.gov**  
then select Community Public Health

### DATE

**June 2, 2006**

- VDH first alerted about 4 cases of sarcoidosis associated with Bennington State Office Building.
- VDH begins health investigation on June 6, 2006.
- 6 cases identified. First case diagnosed in 1992. Most recent case diagnosed in 2006.

**June - July**

VDH –

- Environmental epidemiology team identified
- Research sarcoidosis
- Review medical records; interview people diagnosed
- Review hazardous sites in area identified by ANR records
- Review historical file on indoor air quality and environmental consultant reports related to building
- Meeting with Bennington State Office building employees

BGS –

- Visual inspection of building with VSEA
- Building history shared with VSEA
- New BGS maintenance mechanic assigned

**August 2006**

- State meets with VSEA
- First VDH/BGS weekly update to employees
- First Bennington Stakeholder team meeting
- VDH web pages set up to share information during investigation
- Scope of work for environmental consultant defined

VDH –

- Health survey of current building occupants
- Request to NIOSH for expert consultation/medical screening for current employees

BGS –

- ATC (environmental testing consultant) hired
- Visual inspection of building by ATC/BGS with VDH and VSEA
- Environmental testing of building by ATC
- Informal search for office space in Bennington
- Modular units under consideration

**September 2006**

- Weekly VDH/BGS updates to stakeholders/website
- Weekly stakeholder team meetings

VDH –

- NIOSH medical screenings of current employees
- Health survey of former employees (back to 1994)
- Drinking water samples collected and tested by VDH Lab

BGS –

- ATC environmental testing continues
- Contingency planning to relocate employees in progress – developers contacted, available space catalogued
- BGS project manager identified

**October 5, 2006**

- Meeting of Bennington State Office Building employees

VDH –

- Interim Report on Investigation finds higher than expected rates of sarcoidosis, asthma and asthma-like symptoms
- Health Commissioner recommends temporary relocation of employees while building undergoes further diagnostic work and likely renovation in collaboration with BGS

BGS –

- BGS Commissioner concurs with recommendation from Health Commissioner, announces plan to relocate employees

**October 2006**

- Weekly VDH/BGS updates to stakeholders/website
- Weekly stakeholder team meetings

VDH –

- Recommends Turner Building Science & Design LLC to perform building diagnosis and develop remediation plan
- Community and statewide assessment of sarcoidosis rates underway, using records from 5 major insurers
- Request Dept. of Environmental Conservation managers review area hazardous waste sites for chemicals that could migrate

BGS –

- BGS project manager starts work. Relocation planning:
- Meetings with stakeholders, town officials on proposed sites
- Meeting with Bennington town officials reveals zoning restrictions
- Review available downtown sites to determine feasibility

**November 2006**

- Evaluate proposal to combine modular units and vacant office space in downtown area
- Evaluate modular solution at existing site
- Meeting with four modular vendors, proposals due to BGS 11/3
- Flood plain analysis of current site finds no issue
- Notice to regulators (Public Safety, Natural Resources, Town of Bennington) of intention to locate modulars at existing site
- Town permits locating modulars on site

- Weekly VDH/BGS updates to stakeholders/website
- Weekly stakeholder team meetings
- Human Resources representative on site

VDH –

- Recommendations for moving office equipment/furniture
- Requests Agency of Agriculture review former agricultural use at site; Agriculture agrees to sample soils to test for pesticides

BGS –

- Engineering, design, permit processing, utility design and installation, site preparation and infrastructure installation to support modular units

**December 2006**

- Weekly VDH/BGS updates to stakeholders/website
- Weekly stakeholder team meetings

Dec. 14, 2006 Investigation Update Report

- Includes findings from health surveys/NIOSH medical screening
- Confirms findings from Oct. 5 interim report

VDH –

- Map hazardous waste sites in Bennington area
- Results of community assessment of sarcoidosis rates
- Gerald Davis, MD, UVM College of Medicine presents proposal for research proposal to begin February 2007
- At request, Agency of Agriculture collects soil samples for pesticide testing; Dept. of Environmental Conservation consults with EPA on adjacent Superfund site (JARD)

BGS –

- Site preparation work, criteria for assembly of modular units, floor planning, inspection checklist, etc.
- Approved: fire safety permit; stream alteration permit; wastewater permit; zoning variance

**January 2007**

- Work on wiring, cable fit-up, duct replacement, HEPA filters, propane connection, utility pole installation
- Water damage detected by ATC, remediation process launched, damaged materials removed

- VDH/BGS updates to stakeholders/website
- Weekly stakeholder team meetings

VDH –

- Cleaning protocol for building contents in development
- Discussions with Dept. of Environmental Conservation to expand EPA sampling of soils between JARD Superfund site and Bennington Office site
- Plan for NIOSH scientists to visit in February to develop air sampling plan with BGS, Turner Building & Science Design
- Plan to administer health surveys to employees to monitor health status pre- and post building occupancy

BGS –

- Turner Building Science & Design hired on recommendation of VDH and NIOSH
- Turner Building Science & Design presents scope of building diagnostic work - diagnostic work begins
- Preparations to site and modular units continue