In all the world there is only one Essex Junction

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MEMORANDUM

TO: **David Grimm, CVE General Manager, and Tom Oddy, Director of Special Events**
FROM: **David A. Crawford, Village Manager**
DATE: **August 17, 2011**
SUBJECT: **CVE Noise Violation – Relay for Life June 24 - 25, 2011**

The Relay for Life event was held at CVE on June 24, 2011 through the early morning of June 25, 2011. David Wechsler, Senior Scientist/Principal, Vermont Air Testing Services, measured the noise levels of the event in accordance with the CVE Noise agreement. He reported that the noise levels measured throughout the event did not exceed the established noise level criteria [allowable hourly average is 50.0 decibels] with the exception of Hour 8 (2 to 3 AM) [at 51.2 dBA] and Hour 12 (6 to 7 AM) [at 51.9 dBA] for the hourly average noise level. It is noted that the levels are over the one hour limits by 1.2 dBA and 1.9 dBA respectively; which is not perceivable by an average person. There are no mitigating circumstances associated with the Hour 8 exceedance, although the Hour 12 exceedance was likely caused by increased vehicle traffic in close proximity to the SLM. A copy of the full Monitoring Report is attached.

When asked by the Village Manager to provide his professional comments relating to the technical violations he indicated the following. There are several technical issues that should be addressed that may have contributed to elevated noise levels at the sound level meter during the Relay for Life event on June 24 into the morning of June 25, 2011.

> "The placement of the sound level meter in close proximity to the access road may have allowed the vehicle traffic to have a greater recorded sound level then what would be recorded at the property line from the same source. The sound level meter was placed approximately 10 feet from the access road while still being approximately 20 feet from the property line. During Hour 12 of the Relay for Life, the average recorded sound level at the meter was 51.9 decibels; A-weighted (dBA) *[verses an allowable 50.0 dBA]*.
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> This elevated level was likely due to increased vehicle traffic as participants exited the facility. The recorded sound levels were approximately 10 feet from the reported sound source and based on a free-field estimated sound level calculation, the sound level at the property line 20 feet further from the sound source would be 48.4 dBA based on the levels measured on the sound level meter.
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> Additionally, a source in closer proximity to the sound level meter will have a greater recorded sound level then at an increased distance. For instance, typical normal speech measured at 3 feet is approximately 65 dBA, while that same conversation volume at 20 feet would be heard at 48 dBA. The same would be for vehicle traffic including slow moving vehicles. The further the distance from the sound source the lower the sound level."
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> There were no personnel overseeing the sound monitoring during the overnight hours of the Relay for Life event, so the exact cause of the elevated sound levels during Hour 8 and Hour 12 cannot positively identified. Although it was likely the vehicle traffic in close proximity to the sound level meter was the cause of the increased sound levels. Also, participants talking near the sound level meter would unduly elevate the sound levels at the meter but not truly impact the sound levels exiting the property.