

## MATERIALS & RESEARCH DIVISION

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### RESEARCH UPDATE

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#### 100% RECYCLED POSTS

**HISTORY:** The Materials and Research Division, in cooperation with the Traffic Shop, is conducting an evaluation of sign support posts made of Rivenite produced by Riverhead Milling Inc., with "local" offices in Woodstock, Vermont. Rivenite consists of recycled plastic and sawdust.

Advantages claimed are freedom from rot or insect damage, imperviousness to soil acidity, and non-corrosiveness. It is presently being used for docks, landscaping and picnic tables.

Long term moisture resistance is being tested in the "fog room" at the Materials Laboratory. Installations using 4"x 4" posts were completed in Worcester and E. Ryegate. A previous installation at the gore of the southbound Randolph rest area entrance was erected in the late fall of 1990 and broken by vehicle impact in the spring of 1991. The breakaway characteristics were excellent. The breaks were clean and without splinters. The latest installation was on US 302 in Montpelier where two travel information signs were remounted on Rivenite 4" diameter round posts on September 16, 1991 (see photo).

**STATUS:** The material is also being tested at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research Laboratory in Lebanon, New Hampshire. In addition, the FHWA is conducting crash tests on the material as guardrail posts at the Turner Fairbanks Research Center in McClain, Virginia.

The Vermont AOT has also received 3-1/2" diameter round and 3-1/2" x 5-1/2" rectangular posts which will be installed as appropriate locations become available.

**FOLLOW-UP:** The field installation and site selection is being coordinated by the Sign Shop, and the Sign Control Section with personnel reporting any problems encountered during installation. The Research and Development Section will observe and evaluate the installations until it can be decided if the product can replace steel as sign posts and in other applications.



RIVENITE POSTS ON US 302, MONTPELIER