



Community Advisory Council

March 22, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Bruce Beiser
Bob Boehner
Carol Bullock Carpenter
Bill Ford
Hobert Foster
Chris Hage
Dave Lehrter
Margie Lehrter
Mark Kinnett
Keith Mesch
Kendel Mesch

Facilitator

Kim Lahman

Tour

Members of the CAC met at 6 p.m. at the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) Sanitary Sewer Overflow 700 Storage and Treatment Facility located on the Mill Creek, behind the Rohm and Haas plant in Reading. After touring the facility, the group returned to the second floor conference room at the Rohm and Haas plant for dinner and to continue the meeting.

Community Partnership Initiative Activities (Kim Lahman)

Kim presented an idea of CAC members actively participating in the "Feed the Children" program by volunteering to prepare and serve lunches during the summer. The group committed to help the week of June 11th. Will discuss further at the May CAC meeting.

2007 Meeting Calendar (Bruce Beiser)

Bruce reviewed the proposed meeting topics and presentations for the rest of the calendar year with the group. The standard updates and plant issues will continue to be addressed at each meeting.

Plant Update (Bruce Beiser)

Safety

- No accidents, injuries or first aids with employees or contractors. There were four incidents where the fire department was called:
 - Feb. 8* - An underground firewater protection main for the Process Building broke during the cold spell when the ground was freezing and shifting. Production was shut down until repairs were complete.
 - Feb. 12* – A false alarm occurred when part of a sprinkler system froze and ruptured a pipe, which filled with water and set off the alarm.
 - Feb 13* – A smoldering fire was discovered in the insulation of a reactor in Building 3-A. The hot spot (size of a quarter) was quickly extinguished. A root cause analysis found that a valve had been periodically leaking sodium sulfhydrate and the drips got into the insulation. The material can become flammable when it is dried out. The heating of the reactor started the combustion. As result, all of the insulation was removed and replaced and a new stainless steel exterior put on the system. Insulation on another reactor was also replaced.
 - Mar. 1* – A false alarm occurred when fire sprinkler head was activated due to a malfunctioning thermostat that kept a steam heater running. The high room temperature activated the sprinkler head.

Environmental (Sewer and Wastewater)

- Sewer:
 - No pH excursions, or permit exceedances
- Air:
 - No permit exceedances or reportable releases

Odor Complaints

- The plant has received 11 complaints since the January CAC meeting, five of them during the first week of March. All were reported to be mercaptan. There were no obvious sources for the odors. As a result, the leadership team has decided to revisit all potential fugitive sources for odors beginning in March. The time was right to review all the possibilities since several changes have been made at the plant. R&H may seek a consultant with a new perspective to review the plant for fugitive odor sources. R&H is also working with its corporate engineering group on the scrubber design and efficiency. R&H is committed to continue working on the odor issues.
- R&H will provide bottled samples of materials that contain odors to help neighbors identify and communicate accurately to R&H about specific odors generated by the plant, (eg. mercaptan, hydrosulfide). Both neighbors and the plant would benefit by using the samples to characterize odors. Keith Mesch offered to prepare samples for CAC members at the May meeting.

- R&H encouraged callers to provide a time that they smelled the odors. This helps those receiving the calls correlate what is going on with the reactors and the rest of the plant at that particular time.

Early Truck Arrivals

- There were 12 early trucks arrivals from the last meeting in January. Six of the 12 trucks were admitted and 6 were turned away. Ten trucks arrived after 6 a.m. Two came extremely early: one truck came in at 11:40 p.m. and the guard had to threaten to call the police before the truck driver left reluctantly. He didn't have any paperwork with him. Several drivers still don't read their paperwork.
- A truck driver was observed making a right turn on Pleasant Street and cut the corner short taking out a tree. It was discovered later that he had not reported it.
- Neighbors were encouraged to call the police on trucks that are illegally driving on residential streets that are marked with "no trucks" signs.

Bruce's Retirement

- Bruce announced his retirement effective the end of June. The company is exploring who will replace Bruce. He assured the group that the CAC will continue and that R&H will keep the same commitment to the community after his departure.

Stormwater Retention Project (Chris Hage)

Chris used maps and diagrams to explain details of the operation of the four underground storage vaults and how they will prevent issues with the Sanitary Sewer Overflow. The vaults can hold a total of 500,000 gallons of stormwater. The retention vaults will enable the plant to continue running as well as not jeopardize the community by spilling into the Mill Creek. It is the north side of the property that has the greatest stormwater retention need. MSD has approved the Permit to Install and R&H plans to begin work in March. Construction is anticipated to last six months. The construction will cause necessary excavation. Dirt will be staged in two locations: outside Building 40 and between Building 40 and Building 18. The removed dirt will be tested for suitability in an attempt to reuse as much as possible. None of the removed dirt will leave the site. There will be sewer upgrades, some manholes will be abandoned and some new manholes will be added. Dirt will be spread in some areas resulting in sections of the plant being raised five feet.

During the construction, a big concrete pour necessary for a large basin to hold the vaults, will have the largest impact on the community. It will be one continuous pour with up to 56 trucks carrying concrete traveling on Riesenber Avenue and other back roads during a 12-hour workday. There will be another large truck delivery when the vaults are brought in 12-foot wide sections through the back gate. Truck traffic should stop by 3:30 p.m. during the rest of the construction process. R&H has met with the police department to discuss the upcoming truck traffic and potential roadblocks. Generally, construction will occur during R&H's normal hours operation from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Announcements

Carol Bullock-Carpenter reminded people about the upcoming “Reading Cleanup Day” scheduled for Saturday, April 28, beginning at 10 a.m., at Koenig Park. R&H is a sponsor of the event and in the past, employees have collected trash on Galbraith Road. Everyone was invited to participate.

Closing Note

Kim thanked members for their attendance and participation. She reminded everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 24, 2007.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.