



Community Advisory Council

July 26, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Carol Bullock Carpenter
Bill Ford
Hobert Foster
Chris Hage
Troy Hahn
Mark Kinnett
Sr. Joan Krimm
Jim Pfennig
John Theuring

Guests Present

William Vedra, Public Executive Director,
Ohio Department of Public
Safety, Division of Homeland
Security

Facilitator

Kim Lahman

The meeting was held in the second floor conference room at the Rohm and Haas plant. Members had dinner and Kim brought the meeting to order by reviewing the agenda. Introductions were made.

Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security Presentation

Bill presented a general overview of Homeland Security and described each of its five components: detection, prevention, protection, preparedness and awareness. He explained Homeland Security is comprised of planning, coordination and intelligence gathering operations and discussed current threats and potential Ohio targets.

2006 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Report (Chris Hage)

- Chris gave background information on the need for the TRI report and explained that Rohm and Haas is expected to follow Section 313 of the Clean Air Act, which requires facilities to report annually on environmental releases and off-site transfers of more than 575 different chemicals. The Cincinnati plant uses quantities large enough to report on 9 of the designated chemicals listed by the US EPA and OEPA. R&H reports what goes out in the air, in the water or sewer, and the percentage of chemicals transferred off-site in the waste stream.
- Two criterion are used to determine which chemicals are reportable:
 - If more than 25,000 pounds of the chemical was manufactured or

processed or

- If more than 10,000 pounds of the chemical are used, but not in manufacturing or processing.
- Estimates are calculated by direct measurement, mass balance and emission factor.
- Rohm and Haas submits reports on the following chemicals: Ammonia, Methyl Chloride, Chlorine, Ethyl Chloride, Benzyl Chloride, Glycol Ethers, Lead, Mercury and Methanol.

Plant Update (Mark Kinnett)

Safety

- The plant set a production record in June. There has been a lot of production activity on site with a great deal of digging and moving dirt in the last couple months. Safety performance was maintained during that time. There have been no accidents and injuries with employees or contractors even with additional contractors working on site. The plant has not experienced an OSHA Recordable Incident since September 2006.
- There was one first aid; an employee reported some tenderness in his elbow. It was not related to an isolated incident. It was caused by repetitive motion such as opening and closing valves and other manual labor using the elbow. He was given light duty, which appears to have reduced his symptoms of tenderness.
- The Emergency Response Team conducted a practice drill for a simulated chlorine release with the Reading Fire Department. All members participated and completed the training session.

Environmental (Sewer and Wastewater)

- Sewer:
 - On July 24, R&H experienced a low pH. The excursion occurred for about 7 minutes; there were no permit exceedances. Due to company policy, MSD was notified. The plant had not been in production during that week and was shut down for maintenance activities. This can create pH problems because the volume of water flow leaving the plant is reduced and is not able to absorb any pH variation in the sewer. A failed pump caused the problem. The plant's response to the change in pH was delayed because of the lapse of time between the alarm and closing the gate valve. The new stormwater retention basin will prevent the problem from reoccurring by automatic diversions to the pits. Water will be contained and treated before leaving the site.

—Digging has been the main construction activity on the stormwater retention project. The vaults have begun being formed. Truck traffic will probably start next week. Neighbors will be notified using door hangers with detailed information. There will be one heavy day and several other days where at least 30 trucks will be used. Construction activities will take place over the next 4 to 6 weeks. The route for trucks will keep them moving through the plant and all trucks will be washed before they leave

the site. Signage will be posted on Riesenberg. There should not be any truck traffic on Bernard Avenue.

—A fence-line neighbor reported he has noticed eighteen-wheelers and tractor-trailers using Bernard Avenue more than usual. “Art’s Rental” name was noted on some of the trucks. Troy said that a lot of the heavy equipment to be used is coming from Northern Kentucky and drivers’ directions instruct them to use Bernard Avenue. There was discussion about the truck route and where door hanger notices would be necessary. The suggestion was made to place an announcement in the Valley Courier. Kim agreed to send an article to the weekly newspaper and to John Theuring to notify the schools. The number of trucks should be dwindling by the time students return to school.

Odor Complaints

- The plant received 29 odor complaints in the last two months. The calls have helped pinpoint some particular issues. The plant is tracking each of the complaints and linking them to specific tasks or functions on site. About 45 percent of the odor complaints occur when they are doing the heaviest load to the scrubber. This finding validates they are focused in the right area. They have been working with Rohm and Haas Corporate Health on alternative technology. After studying the scrubber, they have recommended a different scrubber solution for the Cincinnati plant. The test using the new solution will be completed in mid August. R&H is currently waiting on the solution to arrive. Mark stated that sometimes changes in the scrubber solution can cause problems in the waste water so that sometimes one problem is fixed while causing another.

About 25 percent of the odor complaints occur when a finished product is pumped into a tank. The displaced air has an odor. R&H is exploring ways to capture the displaced air and run it through a series of carbon drums. R&H is hopeful that this can resolve a source of community odors. Equipment will probably be installed in September. R&H is waiting on a necessary valve that has a 4 to 6 week delivery schedule.

About 20 percent of the odor complaints can’t be attributed to the plant due to the wrong direction of the wind or the plant being shut down and there are no production activities.

Mark stated the consistency of phone calls have been helpful in honing in on the source of odors.

Early Truck Arrivals

- There were 2 early trucks arrivals in June and 1 in July. R&H discovered a couple of truck drivers arrived without instructions in their paperwork. The breakdown of communication was found on the supplier’s end. R&H continues to fine tune the electronic communication.

Community Partnership Initiative Activities (Kim Lahman)

The group enjoyed a video featuring CAC members preparing and serving lunches during the week of June 11 for the Krazy Daze program formerly known as the “Feed the Children” program.

Announcements

Carol Bullock-Carpenter reminded everyone about the neighbor-to-neighbor community picnic, scheduled for September 30, 2007 and hosted by Lincoln Heights. R&H has always been a sponsor of this event.

Closing Note

Kim thanked members for their attendance and participation. She reminded the group that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 27, 2007 and they will hear presentations from the final applicants for the Community Partnership Initiative grant.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.