



Community Advisory Council

September 27, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Jean Barker
Bo Bemmes
Bob Boehner
Carol Bullock Carpenter
Bill Ford
Chris Hage
Mark Kinnett
Sr. Joan Krimm
Dave Lehrter
Margie Lehrter
Keith Mesch
Kendel Mesch
Jim Pfennig
John Theuring

Guests:

Tim Martin
Richard Morgan
Jennifer Adut
Scott Inskeep

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. Mark introduced Jean Barker who serves in the roles of administrative assistant and community relations for the plant. Introduction of CAC members were made.

Plant Update (Mark Kinnett)

Safety

- On September 16th, the plant passed its one-year mark for operating without injuries requiring medical treatment (beyond a band-aid). There were three minor First Aids reported, two involving employees and one with a contractor since the last CAC meeting.
- The plant just completed its annual utility outage; everything was shut down for five days to inspect and conduct preventative maintenance on equipment and electrical systems. It involves higher risk activities as people work inside the tanks and vessels.

The work was completed free of injuries.

- There were three Reading Fire Department responses in the last two months: 1) On August 25, a leaking flex hose (braided stainless steel) in the Building 11/12 area was isolated and stopped before the fire department arrived. The hose is inspected every 6 months and was last inspected in May 07. Some adjustments were made to the controls to prevent the hose from failing. 2) On September 17, isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) was spilled while being loaded on a trailer. A bolt sticking up from the trailer floor punctured a drum. Because of its flammable nature, the fire department was called. Turning the drum upside down and placing it in an overpack drum resolved the situation. 3) On September 23, during the plant shut down, a false alarm occurred when a flow switch in the fire system mistakenly detected flow.

Environmental (Sewer and Wastewater)

- Sewer:
 - There were no permit exceedances or excursions.
 - The four underground concrete vaults are completed on the stormwater retention project and backfill is being placed around the perimeter of the project area and on top of the vaults. Manhole covers will be built on the surface to allow access for cleaning and inspection. The project is expected to be complete by November 1. Following a rainstorm, the water should automatically divert into the holding tank and reduce the volume of water and the stress to the sanitary overflow. Once the volume of sewage has decreased, the storm water will be pumped out. The majority of the truck traffic should be over in a couple of weeks. The police force was acknowledged for their helpfulness in directing trucks and preventing them from traveling through the neighborhood.

Odor Complaints

- The plant received five odor complaints since the last CAC meeting; four in August and one in September. Two of the five correlate with known causes that have been discussed in earlier meetings and are in the process of being addressed. One complaint was made during a weekend plant shut down and the other two complaints did not indicate a relationship to the plant because the wind was coming from the wrong direction. R&H continues to study the complaints in relationship to its 25 processes. It has conducted one trial and is preparing for a second.
- The first trial in August, R&H tried a new scrubber solution over a period of several days, trying four different applications. Two sets of samples were taken. A set was sent formally to a lab and the results are just back. They will be reviewed and discussed next week. The second set of samples was tested quickly and the results indicate the new scrubber solution is more effective.
- The second trial will be to capture odors out of the storage tanks using carbon drums. When the product is pumped into the storage tank, air in the tank is displaced and escapes out of the top. A correlation was found between the timing of product being pumped into storage tanks and the timing of increased odor complaints. Plans are to

route the displaced air into carbon drums to eat the odors. Complete installation is scheduled for mid to late October. R&H will experiment with a set of tanks on the east side of the plant and if successful, will apply to other tanks.

- A comment was made about Mark's statement in a previous meeting, about 20 percent of the odor complaints not being identified as R&H odors because of the wrong direction of the wind or the plant being shut down. A point was made that the wind blows in several different directions and the plant's windsocks are not a reliable indicator that R&H is not the source of some odors. Mark encouraged neighbors to continue calling in odors to help pinpoint the odor sources. A suggestion was made to place a windsock on Building 4 to provide a better indication of wind's direction. Mark reminded the group about other sources attributed to the Mercaptan smell and assured them that R&H will continue to work on the plant's odor sources.

Early Truck Arrivals

- Six trucks arrived early in August and four in September. In 2006, R&H had a total of 86 early trucks, which averaged 7 per month and for 9 months in 2007 there have been 39 for an average of 4 each month. Progress is being made. R&H continues to identify trucking companies that do not get the "Good Neighbor Policy" transferred through their computer systems to the paperwork received by the truckers. Eighty percent of the truckers, who arrived early, did not have the documentation containing the policy.
- Mark clarified that an early truck is one that shows up at the gate before 7 a.m. Trucks are asked to move if they are found waiting in the parking lot. According to a fence-line neighbor, trucks often wait in the parking lot outside the plant gate near his bedroom window. There was discussion about whether or not police are called and action is taken. A trucker had been cited for illegally parking. Placement of security cameras was suggested.
- Trucks are given a grace period and are allowed to enter the plant at 6:30 a.m. They are documented as an early arrival; follow-ups occur with vendors and complaints are filed.

Community Partnership Initiative Presentations

The Reading Stadium Turf project and the "Bigs in School" program were presented. Time was given for questions and answers. The "Bigs in School" program was selected to receive the \$30,000 CPI grant for 2007.

Announcements

Kim announced that the Reading Church Council had not spent all of the designated grant money for the "Krazy Daze in the Park" program over the two-year period. The group voted to give the remaining balance to the Church Council to help fund the program for the summer of 2008.

Kim informed the group that the air toxics canister that was moved from the Reading pool in 2003, to the Cincinnati State Workforce Development Center across from the Formica plant was no longer functioning. She explained that the data samples compiled from Hamilton County Environmental Services reflected nine chemicals generated by combustible engines or mobile sources and thirteen chemicals from industrial sources. Comparison of the results was made with canisters located in Carthage, Winton, and Lower Price Hill. Data showed similar results. The group voted not to replace the canister due to the results indicating no direct relationship with R&H. Everyone agreed they would be interested in having a speaker from Hamilton County Environmental Services present after a closer review of the data had been completed.

Closing Note

Kim thanked members for their attendance and participation. She reminded the group about the BB Riverboat ride, scheduled for Thursday, October 25. She also reminded everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 29, when Community Partnership Initiative grant recipients will give their final reports and the 2007 award will be presented to Big Brothers/Big Sisters Association of Cincinnati and Reading City Schools.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.