



Community Advisory Panel

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2007

MINUTES

The Dow Community Advisory Panel met on Monday, February 22, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Dow Conference Center. The following persons attended the meeting:

CAP Members

Ms. Carolyn Brown
Ms. Scarlet Callicote
Mr. Bill Cooper
Ms. Shelley Delapasse
Mr. Earnest Grant
Ms. Juanita Hill
Mr. Mickey Rivet
Mr. Raymond Smith, Jr.
Mr. Daniel Stoute
Mr. Gerald Trent
Mr. Gerald Wilson

Dow Personnel

Mr. Lee Trusty
Mr. Dennis Davis
Ms. Stacey Chiasson
Mr. Steve Dennis
Mr. Jordan Tremblay

Facilitation Team

Tim Johnson, Facilitator
Nancy Campanella, Recorder

Also attending the meeting were Ms. Sharlot Edwards, West Baton Rouge Office of Emergency Preparedness, and Ms. Beverly Landry, Iberville Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness. Panel members, Ms. Emma Davis, Mr. Huey Gray, and Mr. Jeff Wille, were unable to attend the meeting. After the facilitator welcomed everyone and new panel member, Daniel Stoute, was introduced, the panel approved the January 15, 2007 CAP meeting minutes as written.

Responsible Care Measures (January 16-February 26, 2007)

Mr. Davis provided Responsible Care performance measurements since the last meeting stating that there have not been any site OSHA injuries so far in 2007. The recordable rate for the LAO site is .4%. Mr. Trusty stated that the recordable rate for US industry is about 4%. Dow's challenge is to break through to the next level of sustained performance, and ultimately to have zero recordables at the site. There were no outside complaints, spills affecting the community, agency audits, or serious transportation incidents during the reporting period. There was 1 public notice for a proposed part 70 air operating permit renewal at the Polyethylene A plant.

To date, 2007, there have been 2 agency reportables at the LAO site. Both occurred on February 12 at the cellulose plant when vent gas from a reactor was released to prevent overpressuring the reactor. 2,100 pounds of dimethyl ether (1,000 pounds is the agency limit), and 1,034 pounds of methyl chloride (100 pounds is the agency limit), were released. There was no offsite impact, as the gases dissipate quickly. The concern at ground level is flammability. Final results of the investigation to determine if there were errors in the procedure or code have not yet been completed.

Answers to Questions Included the Following:

1. Industry is not required to report near misses. However, they are identified, and safety suggestions are made regarding the near misses.
2. Typically, the same team member does not have an event in the course of a year.
3. The higher OSHA injuries numbers between 1994-1997 were actually some of the best rates in industry.
4. No citations have been issued to Dow because of negligence.
5. OSHA does not typically go into the site to study incidents. Mr. Trusty explained that LAO has been an OSHA VPP site for 16 years, being recertified through process and audits. LAO is now a Super Star site – 1 of only a handful in the U.S. Should there be a fatality at the site, OSHA is required to make a visit to the site.
6. PPE equipment is not necessary for the reported leaks.

Mr. Davis stated that the Responsible Care Management System audit was completed in January; Dow was recertified.

Dow in the News (January 16-February 26, 2007) / Upcoming Events & Activities

Ms. Chiasson provided the panel with news events stating that there were 2 articles, one in the Post South and one in The Advocate in that period – 1) an appeals court affirmed a class action against Dow; and 2) the Ethics Board fined Dow regarding a plane trip. Mr. Trusty explained that 3 community college officials were transported on the Dow shuttle to attend a 1-day training program in Brazosport, TX. They were not charged for airfare and flew standby. They were approved for the trip through the Chancellor's Office. The Board of Ethics determined that this violated the Louisiana's ethics laws, as Dow had the potential to gain from the trip and to establish a relationship with the community college.

Ms. Chiasson then provided information on upcoming events and activities as follows:

1. February 27 – Safety Town in West Baton Rouge Parish.
2. March – Education Enhancements grants will be mailed. They are being mailed out earlier than usual this year.
3. March 19 – Safety Town in Iberville Parish.
4. March 30 – West Baton Rouge Tourist Commission Kite Fest.
5. March 31 – American Heart Association Heart Walk, Dow Village
6. Ongoing – Science is pHun demonstrations – 200 children attended these demonstrations at LSU on February 24th.

“Did you know”

that horses experience less fear and stress during transport when their trailers are cushioned with Dow EQUIFOAM?

Around the Table

A panel member stated that information on providing educational awareness for incidents (sheltering-in-place, evacuations, etc.) is available at www.federalgrants.gov

Door-to-Door Good Neighbor Visit Information

Ms. Chiasson provided information on the Door-to-Door Good neighbor visits, stating that the program is usually held on weekdays during mid-October. Law enforcement officers accompany plant representatives on the visits. Last year, 60 Dow representatives visited neighbors within a

2-mile radius of Dow. Door-to-Door visits for the participating plants in the area are done on the same day. Plant representatives are provided training for the visits in order to know how to be good listeners, respond to questions, and provide information to share with the area residents. Each team of 4-12 members is supplied with bags and water. The team leader mans the radio and synchronizes with other teams, and returns the forms and supplies to the Dow Conference Center. Team members divide into pairs for each side of the street and hang bags on doors, listen and respond to residents, and make a record of any questions and comments, if necessary. Each bag delivered in 2006 included a radio, notepad and pencil, a LAO 50th Anniversary flyer, exercise, flu, and cold information sheets, information on preventing cooking fires, a 2007 magnetic calendar, an emergency slide guide, and a food safety potholder. Plant representatives are briefed on the types of questions that may be asked and are advised to follow up with answers, if necessary. The goal of the Door-to-Door visits is to produce good dialogue with its neighbors, and to protect a sustainable future for Dow.

Door-to-Door visits began over 10 years ago when Dow employees went door-to-door to homes adjacent to LAO to answer questions after a chemical release. The response was very positive. The visits then broadened to include government agencies responsible for public communications, emergency preparedness and response, the sheriff's office, city police and fire department. Other chemical industries in the parish adopted the practice in their neighborhoods as well. Visits are now coordinated by the Iberville Parish CAER Committee. The 2-mile radius for the visits was based upon historical spill data from Dow. No release was detected further than this distance in the past 15 years. Both the Iberville and the West Baton Rouge Parish Offices of Emergency Preparedness distributed a preparedness booklet to all parish residents in 2003, through assistance from the CAER committee. Monthly siren tests are conducted by the parish OEPs with periodic messages via a cable TV override system.

Visit to OEP and Continued Discussion of the Door-to-Door Visits

Mr. Steve Dennis stated that when there is an incident at the LAO site with potential impact on the community, Dow is required by law to notify the local LEPCs, the Louisiana State Police HAZMAT division, and the Department of Environmental Quality. Dow contacts the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) first to provide necessary information about the incident through I-Notification (West Baton Rouge Parish) and E-Notify (Iberville Parish). Dow is able to provide the wind speed and the area impacted electronically to OEP. OEP then notifies other agencies. Dow makes recommendations for actions to be taken, but the final decision is made by OEP. Dow remains in constant communication with OEP about the incident. Sheltering-in-place is usually the best advice.

Ms. Edwards stated that the West Baton Rouge OEP provides emergency information in the Sunshine telephone book to help educate the public – to teach them what to do in emergencies and how to find out necessary information. Sunshine services Iberville, Pointe Coupee, and West Baton Rouge Parishes. Ms. Edwards suggested that residents have a battery operated radio available, and to tune in to WJBO AM 1150 for emergency notifications.

Answers to Questions and Comments Included the Following:

1. The telephone systems are operational during power outages. Area residents can be notified of incidents through the phone system or cable override. Additionally, law enforcement agencies use a public address system to provide information as necessary.
2. The CAER sirens have a 4-hour battery backup system.

3. There are 28 sirens in the community siren system. Dow can control 5 of the sirens that are located near the site. OEP is responsible for activating the sirens and providing shelter-in-place information.
4. If residents should hear a siren, but are unable to get any other information, they should shelter-in-place.
5. Representatives of the West Baton Rouge OEP have made various presentations to the West Baton Rouge Council on Aging.
6. Sirens are tested on the first Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Iberville Parish, and on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in West Baton Rouge Parish.
7. West Baton Rouge OEP received very good responses from a survey on various emergency questions.
8. Sirens are always tested while using the power system. Batteries are checked on a regular basis. The OEP offices may consider testing the sirens using the backup batteries as well.
9. A panel member stated that he has never seen the Door-to-Door representatives in any neighborhood.
10. Another panel member expressed concern about the possibility of a nonresident in the 2-mile radius being caught in the 2-mile radius area when there is an incident and not having the knowledge as to what should be done.

The following suggestions were made from panel members in an attempt to maintain a balance between available resources and the need for an expansion of the Door-to-Door visits to a larger area:

1. The plants that participate in the Door-to-Door visits should work together to map out the visited area and divide the area among the plant to make sure that everyone in the area is educated.
2. The Door-to-Door visits should not only be the plants' responsibility. The parishes should bear more of the responsibility.
3. The plants and the parishes should share the responsibility. Since any leak is the responsibility of a plant, the plants should take the lead in the Door-to-Door visits. Ms. Edwards stated that the parish OEP offices work closely with industry during spills, and spend a lot of time and money educating the public.
4. Young children should be better informed. Mr. Edwards stated that kindergarteners are taught how to shelter-in-place, and are provided information on chemicals through Safety Town, which is held in both West Baton Rouge and Iberville Parishes.
5. It is the public's responsibility to stay informed. Ms. Landry stated that the Iberville Parish E-Prep Guidebook is provided to every household in Iberville Parish every 4 years. The guidebook is also available in public libraries and in some businesses.
6. The Iberville Parish E-Prep Guidebook should be provided in every hotel room in the area.
7. West Baton Rouge Parish population – 22,000; Iberville Parish population – 33,000.
8. The West Baton Rouge Parish School Board has a risk management program in place. Every day for 10 weeks, classes are taught on disasters, responders, fires, bombs, etc.
9. Informational brochures should be placed in schools. School children do not take drills seriously.

Ms. Chiasson stated that Dow will continue to educate, even if the process does not include Door-to-Door visits throughout the parish. Information may be made available at churches, businesses, etc. Ms. Edwards stated that she is willing to go to any meetings to educate the

public. She challenged everyone to write a plan as to what should be done in any emergency in their homes, and to talk to their neighbors. She also stated that the West Baton Rouge Parish LEPC meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the West Baton Rouge Parish Courthouse. There are currently no West Baton Rouge parish residents on the LEPC. She invited West Baton Rouge Parish residents to attend the meetings. Ms. Landry stated that the Iberville Parish LEPC meets on the fourth Thursday of every other month, and has 2 citizen members.

Additional Agenda Items

The facilitator stated that the following topics would be added as future agenda items:

1. Discussions on safety and the environment.
2. A discussion on what the public wants regarding incidents – more education? information?

Next Meeting

The next Dow CAP meeting will be held on Monday, March 19, 2007. The agenda will include an update by Pipeline Technologies on the benzene pipeline that will service Dow and TOTAL, and a presentation on Dow's worst case scenario and the steps in place to handle such an emergency.