



Community Advisory Panel

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007

MINUTES

The Dow Community Advisory Panel met on Monday, March 19, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Dow Conference Center. The following persons attended the meeting:

CAP Members

Ms. Carolyn Brown
Ms. Emma Davis
Ms. Shelley Delapasse
Mr. Earnest Grant
Mr. Huey Gray
Ms. Juanita Hill
Mr. Mickey Rivet
Mr. Raymond Smith, Jr.
Mr. Daniel Stoute
Mr. Gerald Trent
Mr. Jeff Wille

Dow Personnel

Mr. Lee Trusty
Mr. Dennis Davis
Ms. Bob Brady
Mr. Andy Mosher
Ms. Donna Carville
Ms. Stacey Chiasson
Ms. Fran Comeaux

Facilitation Team

Tim Johnson, Facilitator
Nancy Campanella, Recorder

Panel members, Ms. Scarlet Callicoatte, Mr. Bill Cooper, and Mr. Gerald Wilson, were unable to attend the meeting. After the facilitator welcomed everyone, the panel approved the February 26, 2007 CAP meeting minutes, as written.

We Heard You . . . Next Steps

Ms. Chiasson explained that Dow was listening when the CAP members questioned the reason for a two-mile radius limit for the Door-to-Door initiative. It was determined that the Office of Emergency Preparedness educates many sectors of the public, but there are still opportunities for continuous education. Dow will discuss the program with the CAER group, other industry, and the community to determine which other groups have a set limit for the program and which don't, and determine other ways to educate the public. She stated that extending the radius more than two miles may change the look of the Door-to-Door program and may call for a whole different program all together.

Risk Management Plan

Mr. Bob Brady explained Dow's risk management plan (RMP), stating that the law has required an RMP since 1997, and Dow has been in compliance with the law. The elements of the plan are to evaluate and understand the risk, manage the risk, and plan for events. Dow has lots of redundancy built into the plan because it wants to be able to manage and mitigate any problems. Dow is required (as is all industry) to prepare a risk management plan to handle the worst-case scenario that could occur at the site. The required assumptions would be that a process vessel would be completely full when a catastrophic event occurs. The amount of the chemical that

could be released in 10 minutes must be determined, there cannot be a mitigation system in place, and the event would occur during very stable (stagnant) atmospheric conditions. Dow is an industry leader in risk management, conducting multiple hazard reviews, reactive chemical programs, and strict designs. Dow is always considering ways to eliminate risks.

Should an incident occur, what should the community do?

1. Shelter in place.
2. Keep phone lines open for ringdown messages.
3. Listen to the radio and monitor cable TV for information. Ms. Carville stated that sheltering in place is usually the best precaution because chemical plumes don't necessarily travel in a straight line, so it is hard to determine the direction it will take.

Answers to Questions and Comments Included the Following:

1. All systems at LAO have mitigation and redundancy systems incorporated into them.
2. Examples of process vessels would include tanks, receiver drums, distillation columns, piping systems, etc.
3. If industry is prepared for the worst-case scenario, then every other scenario is more manageable.
4. Chemicals typically travel in plumes and wind direction is taken into account. The toxic end point is the distance in miles to the end point.
5. Refrigerant gases can be seen. Even though they may not be easily seen as they are diffused, they can be smelled.
6. Dow takes data from a release and feeds it into a model. Based on the gases' physical properties, Dow will be able to predict how far a plume will travel. Models and/or look-up tables can be used to make conservative predictions.
7. LAO does not use railcars to ship chlorine. EDC is transported by ship between LAO and the Freeport site.
8. Although Dow can't eliminate all of its hazardous chemicals, it can reduce them and is always working on ways to do so.
9. EDC is used to make vinyl chloride, which is used to make PVC.
10. December 31 is the target date for Dow to exit the HCl business, although some contracts will remain in effect until May 2008. Dow will consume the remainder of the HCl on the site. As the inventory decreases, the affected area is reduced.
11. The worst incident in the 50-year history of LAO was a chlorine release from a compressor in the Glycol plant in 1979, when the chlorine traveled across the river to Plaquemine Point (2 miles).
12. A panel member remarked that the information is very good for those who have access to it; however, that number is few.
13. Mr. Mosher stated that the purpose of the worst-case scenario is to provide information to OEP. All plants are required to do so.
14. A panel member suggested that industry set aside a day for area residents to obtain emergency information.
15. A panel member suggested that precautionary information be made available through the EPA. Interested persons could provide an address on the EPA website and the potential threats of problems in that area would be provided.

16. Ms. Chiasson stated that continuous education is the key. Ms. Carville suggested using the parishes' quarterly newsletters as a vehicle for this information. She will approach local government on this possibility.
17. A panel member suggested that Dow provide information to students and parents, as students don't take drills seriously. Changing perception is the key to understanding and eliminating fear.
18. The concept of sheltering in place developed about 15 years ago. Even though it is better understood now, it takes time and consistency to get the message to everyone.

Responsible Care Performance Measurements

Mr. Davis provided Responsible Care performance measurements for February 27-March 19, 2007, stating that there was one site injury to date in 2007. An operator was struck in the face with a small piece of metal while hammering in the Methocel® plant. Although the injury did not require stitches, the worker had to be placed under anesthesia for the removal of the metal. There were no outside complaints, spills affecting the community, agency audits, public notices, or serious transportation incidents during the reporting period. Year-to-date, there have been two agency reportables at the LAO site, and none during the reporting period.

Dow in the News/Upcoming Events

Ms. Chiasson provided the panel with Dow in the News information, stating that there were articles on Dow honoring volunteers for their service to the community, welcoming 19 new employees to the team, and diversity in the workplace.

Upcoming events and activities include Safety Town (March 19), the WBR Tourist Commission Kite Fest (March 30), the American Heart Association Heart Walk (March 31), the United Way Jambalaya Cookoff (April 17 – Dow is extending its United Way Campaign). A flaring activity is being worked on in Science in pHun.

Current Panel Items

1. The panel asked that the facilitator provide the panel with statistics as to what CAP suggestions have been implemented by Dow (in addition to the inclusion of the website on area bulletin boards).
2. It is very unlikely that Dow is being offered a buyout. The rumor began in response to an article in a British tabloid that this would be occurring. Mr. Trusty stated that Dow produces many basic and special chemicals that are integrated. To sell any of the plants that make specific chemicals individually would not be productive.

Gulf Coast Workforce Development Initiative Update

Mr. Johnson stated that Dow is heavily involved in the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Initiative, a program developed to recruit, train, and employ 20,000 construction workers along the Gulf Coast. The training program is a free 4-week introductory program that is offered through the community and technical college system. Graduates of the program are earning between \$10-\$14 per hour and are continually offered opportunities to upgrade their skills, as there is a huge demand for skill construction workers in Louisiana. Louisiana is the leader in the initiative. The program will run through December 2009. Of the 6,000+ students either enrolled in or having completed the training, Louisiana has 4,500, with an 85% placement rate for graduates. Louisiana and Mississippi were each provided a \$5 million grant for program

funding; the Louisiana Legislature appropriated an additional \$15 million to the program. Interested persons should either call 888-52GREAT, or visit the website at www.imgreat.org for information on enrolling in the program.

Next Meeting

The next Dow CAP meeting will be held on Monday, April 16, 2007 at the Dow Conference Center. The main agenda item will be a site overview/plant tour. Panel members are asked to wear closed toe, flat shoes, and long pants to the meeting, and to plan to arrive early so that we can begin the meeting promptly at 6:00 p.m.