

**WEST COUNTY COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 1999**

Location: Louisville Urban League, 1535 West Broadway

Pennie DuBarry

Pennie resigned and will be missed. She will be returning as an interested party. We are looking forward to a continued working relationship. She is an avid environmentalist and works closely with the Sierra Club. Best of luck to her and her family in their new home.

Peggy Bolton

Peggy Bolton is in the hospital with a knee replacement repair. (She is now at home.) Hope to see you soon.

Environmental Justice Grant: Partnerships for Communication

Copies of the EJ grant were distributed along with a synopsis of the requirements to be discussed at the June meeting. These were given for review and comments.

Superfund Seminar – Denver

The Superfund Manual from the Denver seminar was presented and an invitation to browse through it was given. Xavier University in Louisiana and Clark University in Atlanta sponsor accredited training for Superfund site cleanup. If this is something we would like to sponsor I need your support to take on this project. It is monumental in nature, however, and to get started we must establish a need for this area. There is money available, but we must apply for it.

Scorecard Information

Samples of how to obtain information about each community by using zip codes of companies that present a pollution exposure were distributed. Information on their products, chemicals used, and health effects of the chemicals can be access. To access this information, the Web address is <http://www.scorecard.org>.

Kentuckiana Bridge

An information sheet on the Kentuckiana Bridge, its pros and cons, was given. This information was shared at a meeting sponsored by the Community Leadership Alliance. The trend is more in favor of the East End Bridge at this time. However, there was concern that the amount of downtown traffic would still be the same. The workforce would still arrive and depart at approximately the same time, which would result in the same congestion. The entire Jefferson County area will bear the cost of this project.

By-laws Meeting

The next by-laws meeting will be set within the next 60 days.

Air Monitoring

The air monitoring meeting was set for May 25th at Lutz Hall, University of Louisville. Representatives from EPA, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Air Pollution Control District, the University of Louisville, and the West County Task Force were invited to discuss monitoring sites. The meeting started at 9:30 and commenced with a tour of the Rubbertown area.

The Rubbertown tour began at 4:30 p.m. at the Environmental Information Center at 1015 West Chestnut. U of L vans were provided for transportation. A “recommendation” monitoring site list was passed around at the meeting for additional suggestions on potential sites. Sites listed were:

- Lake Dreamland Fire Dept.
- Farnsley Middle School
- Fourth District Police Station
- Southwestern Parkway
- Kennedy School
- DuValle Education Center
- California Community
- Company fencelines

American Synthetics presentation

Mr. Frank Kennedy

Mr. M. Paul Serridge

American Synthetics, totally owned by Michelin since 1992, manufactures synthetic rubber for Michelin tires.

Video highlights:

- Products are used on space shuttles
- Has a commitment to safety in the workplace as well as the community
- Provides a trained emergency response team
- Regularly exceeds all requirements for all safety and environmental standards
- Has a self-contained water treatment facility that returns clean water to the Ohio River

Samples of products were exhibited.

Presentation highlights:

- Production has doubled since 1987
- Emissions decreased by a factor of six or 15%
- Daily tests are taken to calculate the raw material present that goes to the customers
- Data for 1998 has been released to APCD

- There was a significant drop in emissions in 1993. The emissions reduction was due to the building of a steam plant. Most of the emissions from the plant were connected into the steam plant, since a boiler requires large quantities of air. It then takes the air that had the organic compounds, sends them to the boiler and consumes them in the firebox.
- In 1994 emissions increased. There was a decrease in '95 and '96 and another increase in '97.
- In 1998 APCD required the company to test emissions from the flare stacks.
- Emissions per pound of production are decreasing. Presently an engineering firm is studying air emissions reduction.
- In testing and filtering of the product, hazardous waste is produced. Since the introduction of better testing, controls, and recycling of testing materials wherever possible, the hazardous waste equals 1/10 of a pound per ton.

Emergency Response Team

- 70 employee volunteers
- 96 hours of training per year is required, which includes drills, practice, and review repeatedly. EPA requires only 40 hours.
- Lake Dreamland Fire Department is included in the drills.

What happens when a release is reported

- An assessment team is sent to the release site
- Part of the team says what is needed
- Lake Dreamland Fire Dept. is on premises within five minutes. A representative must be at the gatehouse to answer inquiries of the fire department.
- 15-17 Emergency Response Team members are suited up, setting up decontamination equipment, roping off the area, checking to stop the process, etc. according to regulations.
- Sirens are installed to warn people to turn on their radios, close windows and doors, and turn off air conditioners
- The Fire Chief is in control once he arrives
- EPA provides a list, i.e., Butadiene or hydrochloric acid, etc., which states the maximum limits of reportable quantities

Fines

- Due to an odor complaint
- Failure to make two phone calls due to an ammonia release resulting from a lightning

There are inspections at least once a month from one of the inspection agencies.

Wastewater Discharge

- Wastewater discharge is 1 million gallons per day. Collected storm water is treated as contaminated water. A temperature of 100 degrees is the allowable limit for discharge. A quarterly toxicity test is required.

- Water is received from the city and released to the Ohio River. Ten waterfleas are put into the water and six must still be alive at the end of 48 hours to pass the test for acceptable levels of toxicity. Waterfleas are grown in a Lexington lab.

Brochures

Brochures were distributed to all attendees regarding risk management. Included in the brochure was information on how to read a scenario map, how the companies keep things from happening, what the companies are prepared to do if the worse-case scenario happens, how does the community respond, list of participating companies, chemical listings of participating companies, how to get more information and what to do when something happens.

Radio station 1610 AM is the emergency radio station when an emergency arises. It reaches a three-mile radius of the affected company.

Per Jonathan Miller, the public school system has a person who is response for contacting the affected schools. TARC will share in the responsibility of transporting children to safe places.

Worst case scenario -

Total system failure, happening during the worst weather related conditions.

Alternate release-

What could happen; what could the companies do to keep this from happening.

Regarding terrorism-

EPA has instructed companies to delete certain information to lessen opportunity to gather critical information from the Internet.

Rubbertown explosion-

Concern that if one of the Rubbertown plants “blew up” it would take all of the West End. All precautions are being taken to prevent this type of catastrophe.