

WEST JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES

October 15, 2002

NIA Center
2900 West Broadway
Second Floor Conference Room
(502) 852-4609

ATTENDEES:

Peggy Bolton, Shawnee
Leslie Barras, WJCCTF
Jonathan Miller, DDE
Art Williams, APCD
Dan Hicks, Rohm and Haas
Laura Hackett, Russell
Robert Hackett, Russell
Debbie Basham, SW Jeff. Co.
LaLetta Jenkins, Shawnee
Bobby Hickey, Portland
Tom Herman, Zeon
Fred Nett, Lou. Dev. Auth
Norm Robinson, Shawnee/MSD

I. Risk Assessment/RiskMgt. Update – Art Williams

We have received the proposed Risk Assessment implementation from the vendor. It was sent to members of the Risk Assessment Committee. We received four comments that were consistent. Non-detects were proposed differently, however it was agreed to do it their way.

On the Distributive analyses, there was concern as to the calculation of the upper 95th percentile confidence level. We proposed that it be done according to the original plan

The Vendor, Sciences, Int'l now has information from both labs – UofL and EPA. The Proposal cost of \$65,000 was accepted.

The Risk Management meeting- scheduled for Thursday, October 17th, 3:00 p.m. at the Air Pollution Control District

II. Community Update presentation – Rohm and Haas - Dan Hicks

Rohm and Haas Co. is the largest plant in Rubbertown with 530 employees on over 148 acres. More than half of the employees live in Jefferson County. Others live in nearby counties. Rohm and Haas Co. was purchased from the government in 1960 and processes plastics additives, acrylic coatings, and emulsions.

Rohm and Haas completed a community survey by phone, that consisted of 200 people within a three mile radius. The Opinion survey from '85 to '91 showed an improvement in public awareness of the Rohm and Haas plant. Rohm and Haas has decreased their budget for community relations since early '90's. Public Affairs activities include: Community newsletters, a Citizens Advisory Council, RCAC, Employee speakers bureau, Support for schools in Chemistry, Mentoring, Junior Achievement, Emergency Responders Assemblies, Family Resource/Youth Service Centers, Brochures and many others.

Emergency notification is given to the news media, day cares, and schools. Emergency notification “crawler”s at the bottom of the TV screens along with the sirens give notice to residents. A Computer calls-up system is in place that leaves a recorded message, however this has never been activated because there has been no need. Testing of the system has not been verified.

Leslie – People perceive there is a need for information

Dan – “How do we do a better job”

In 2001 over 70% of those surveyed felt that Rohm and Haas was a good corporate citizen. In 2001 71% of those surveyed felt that this community was a “Good” place to live. 85% of those surveyed felt the area of highest concern is air pollution with danger of transportation accidents following with 62%. Odors with 61% and Plant accidents with 60%, Explosion and fire 56%, Cancer causing materials 53%, Water Pollution 48% and Buried Waste 42%.

A complete copy of the presentation can be found at the Information center at the NIA Center, or from Rohm and Haas, Dan Hicks, 449-5328.

III. DuPont Dow Closing – Jonathan Miller

On September 19th the DuPont Dow Closing was announced. This would affect approximately 289 employees. The closing process is scheduled for completion in 2005. The affect of the DuPont Dow closing is not known at this time.

I.E DuPont announced shifting part of their HFC operation to the Corpus Christi facility. For more information on that please contact Cheryl Fisher at 775-3232,

Leslie - Will DuPont dismantle and remove all the structures in the plant.

Jonathan – They will be responsible for all remediation and feasibility studies to provide the clean-up process to EPA and the state.

Leslie – Is there going to be air emissions credits that will be available for retirement or buying from another operation.

Jonathan – The decision to close was based on the premise of a dwindling competitive market. There was a transportation issue where rail cars have gone off the track causing fire explosions. Chloroprene is very volatile. The compliance expenditures regarding waste water to MSD through wooden line trenches became cost prohibitive and added nothing to the bottom line. This is a potential remediation activity.

Tom – Rubbertown has worked with community groups regarding concerns.

Debbie – Fines for violations should go back into the community to better educate the community regarding health concerns. This could be used to make something beneficial to the community.

IV. E.I. DuPont – Cheryl Fisher

No Report – unable to attend.

V. Rohm and Haas Hazardous Waste Boiler – Discussion

There was a legal notice regarding a trial burn of the boiler. Opportunity for comment from the community was given. The Boiler is classified as a treatment facility. The ability to destroy solvents have standard limits. This will be used as a back-up boiler. A risk assessment was done to see what was coming out of the stacks. No variances or exemptions were requested. Hazardous waste is burned at an off-site facility. A health assessment will be done. A minimum efficiency standard is set at 99.99% removal.

VI. MOBILE6 (Mobile Source Emissions estimating program) – Art Williams

This is the software tool developed by EPA to calculate mobile sources in a community – VOC's and Oxides of Nitrogen . MOBILE6 was introduced this year. APCD has used the model for understanding Mobile emissions and VOC's for OZONE.

MOBILE6 takes into considerations that newer cars has reduced emissions longer. It does not look at toxics from mobile sources. The maintenance plan must be recalculated to include the elimination of the VET. The baseline numbers will be closer.

Debbie – expressed concerns about the health effects due to the mixture of chemicals and a concern that no real health studies were being done.

Tom – Employees health assessments are done by UofL, evaluating chemical mixtures.

VII. Jefferson Co. is number one in the Southeast for health exposure to pollutants

A brief discussion highlighting the October 4th article in the Courier regarding an EPA study that concluded that Jefferson County ranked first in the Southeast for health risks from hazardous air pollutants. A combination of factors was used. Among them were toxic emissions from industry, motor vehicles, cancer rates and number of people under age 18 and over 65.

VII. Comments from the community

Tom Herman from Zeon was concerned about the statement in the paper made by Alderwoman Cheri Bryant-Hamilton regarding the closing of DuPont. He felt it to be detrimental to relationships with the facilities who have worked diligently with the community to reduce emissions and improve relations.

Arnita stated that Alderwoman Hamilton represents her constituents and has shown support to the community and the Task Force efforts by giving \$50,000 (a city grant) at her request, to continue the air monitoring and outreach efforts.

VII. Comments from the Board

EPA will hold an on-line public dialogue for 60-days from October 16, 2002 to December 17,2002 as part of a national Stakeholder Dialogue on the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching. EPA is seeking suggestions and ideas on the Agency's methods for report, collecting, processing and releasing the TRI data. Instructions for participating in the on-line dialogue are posted at EPA's TRI Web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/tri/programs/stakeholders/outreach.htm>

NOTE: The SARA 313, 1999-2001 report is in the Information Center. These are actual quantities released to the environment from the plant site. If you are interested in receiving this report please call the center and one will be mailed to you.

