

Omya Community Issue Team – Plant Issues

March 24, 2008 Meeting Summary

Location: Maclure Library, Pittsford, VT

Date: March 24, 2008

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Attendees (in alphabetical order):

Sean Alvarez – Safety Manager, Omya
Ernie Brod – Florence resident
Peg Flory – State Representative
Jim Morale – Production Superintendent, Omya
Kathleen Ramsay – Pittsford Town Manager
Umberto “Pat” Rosato – Florence resident

Note Taking:

MaryKaye Macaulay – Administrative Assistant, Omya
Dave Thayer – CLF Ventures

Absent:

Ed Eugair – Florence resident
Dave Markowski – Florence resident and local business owner
Jack Orvis – Florence resident
Jane Orvis – Florence resident

I. Welcome and Introductions

Issue Team co-facilitators Sean Alvarez (Safety Manager) and Jim Morale (Production Superintendent) welcomed the Team to the fourth meeting of the Plant Issue Team. Sean reviewed the proposed agenda for the evening. The Team agreed that the meeting format and agenda is acceptable.

II. Old Business

Sean provided a short review of the topics covered at the third Plant Issues Team Meeting on January 28, 2008. Team Members were asked if they had any changes or additions to the meeting minutes of January 28, 2008. Team accepted the minutes as written for posting online at www.omyainvermont.net.

III. Discussion of Prioritized Issues

Several specific questions were raised from the last meeting and Jim and Sean presented the information they gathered to the team.

1. Do chemicals from tailings get into the stormwater settling basins?

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- Jim stated that Omya, on some occasions, has detected chemicals (specifically flotation chemical) in the stormwater West Settling Basin. The pathway is unknown and ongoing monitoring will be conducted quarterly as recommended by the Section 5 Study and required by the State. Jim noted that stormwater from the West Settling Basin is pumped to the Pittsford Italian Quarry (PIQ), not offsite, for use within the Plant. Further details can be found within the Section 5 Study Report.
 - A team member asked if chemicals could get into the ground and were there any plans to change that. Jim responded that there is an upgrade planned for the Verpol Plant Stormwater Settling Basin. He further explained the difference between stormwater basins and tailings settling cells. The construction of the Tailings Dewatering Facility (TDF) will eliminate the need for tailings settling cells. Construction of the TDF by September 2009.
- 2. Are AEEA and Arsenic tested for and have they historically been tested for?
 - Semi-annual water testing for AEEA specifically began in November 2006. The continuation of semi-annual AEEA testing is required. Testing for the total flotation chemical in water began in February 2003. Metals testing in groundwater, including for arsenic, was conducted initially in 2000. Semi-annual arsenic (metals) testing re-commenced in May 2007. The continuation of semi-annual arsenic testing is required. Further details can be found within the Section 5 Study Report.
 - A question was raised about the level of AEEA in the stormwater settling basin. Jim stated that the stormwater collected within the stormwater basins is pumped to the PIQ for reuse in the Plant. He further added that Omya is looking to replace/eliminate the use of AEEA in its processing. Currently Omya has reduced the use of this chemical by approximately 50% by working directly with the chemical supplier.
- 3. How many wells does Omya have on site used for drinking water? What are these wells tested for?
 - There are no drinking wells on site. The Florence / Pittsford municipal system is the source of potable water on site. The Town of Pittsford performs the required drinking water supply testing in accordance with their Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) permit (e.g. bacteria, inorganics, volatile organics, semi-volatile organics, pesticides / herbicides).
- 4. In dry year conditions can Omya drain down the water quantity from neighbors' wells? Has this been addressed in the Section 5 Study?
 - Omya's primary source of plant water is from the Pittsford Italian Quarry (PIQ), supplemented by stormwater. If needed, Omya uses water from the municipal system in accordance with the Town requirements. Per historical data and the Section 5 Study, the pumping of water from the PIQ for use in the Plant does not appear to affect the quantity of water in neighboring

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wells. Continued flow monitoring of the PIQ water balance is required per Section 5 Study recommendations.

- The discussion that followed raised several questions from Team members.
 1. Does Omya's drawing water from Hogback Quarry affect neighboring wells?
 2. If the Town had a limited amount of water where would Omya get its water?
 3. Does blasting, including the blasting for the construction of the Tailings Dewatering Facility, affect local water supply? What type of monitoring is being done?
 4. Does Omya have any historical data on neighbor wells that have run dry? Do hydro-geologists research this activity? A Team member commented that a well above his home and one below his home ran dry but his has remained stable.
- 5. Has Section 5 identified the sources of Noise? Have any specific recommendations come from the Section 5 Study regarding Noise?
 - The ongoing noise study that commenced in the Spring 2006 is being performed by both HMMH & L.G. Copley Associates. HMMH began working with Omya on noise issues prior to the Section 5 Study. Ongoing meeting with noise stakeholders will continue every other month with the next meeting scheduled in April. As result of the ongoing noise study, the two primary sources of the tonal frequencies disturbing some neighbors identified are from roof-top area exhaust vents and a roof-top air intake duct.

Recommendations from the study include the following steps:

- a. Modeling will be used to determine the noise level reduction necessary from the control devices to achieve elimination of audible nuisance tones from the identified primary sources.
- b. Evaluation & identification of control devices and/or equipment modifications needed to achieve the target reduction of the noise level / tonal frequencies of the identified primary sources
- c. Engineering & design of noise control devices for the identified primary sources
- d. Develop & implement a schedule for the construction & installation of control device(s).
 - During discussion of this topic, it was suggested that Lawrence Copley (L.G. Copley Associates) be invited to a future meeting to address the team on the Noise Issue.
 - Another question raised at this time was whether the new Tailings Dewatering Facility was being designed with noise modifications in mind. Will the noise of this facility, echo, divert or reflect sound

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in other directions? Has Omya retained a noise consultant to address any new noise concerns from the TDF? Jim noted that neither of the two primary sources of the tonal frequencies disturbing some neighbors identified at the Plant will be part of the Tailings Dewatering Facility. Jim reassured the team that it is Omya's responsibility to address issues that affect neighbors and Omya will do so.

IV. New Issues

Sense of Community

The Sense of Community Issue was brought forward and discussed as a concern. The Team questioned how Omya was getting information to the community about its plans following the conclusion of the Section 5 study. What are Omya's plans going forward? Could the company provide its future monitoring strategy and other information that might be valuable to the community? How will Omya communicate with the Section 5 Oversight Team members about Omya's progress on the Section 5 recommendations? Jim and Sean mentioned that the Community Issue Teams were one way Omya is working with the community and sharing the findings of the Section 5 study. Another way is through the omyainvermont.net website, where all study documents are publicly available. It was suggested that Omya provide information to the community regarding their future testing/monitoring plans. There was discussion that the Town could act as a conduit of information by placing the Section 5 Findings and Omya's ongoing monitoring plans into the next Pittsford Town Newsletter due out in May. It was agreed that this would be helpful to the community so the Team decided to move forward with this effort.

When asked if the format or structure of the Issue Team meetings is acceptable moving forward, the team felt no changes needed to be made. Team members gave positive feedback regarding the Issues Teams and their effectiveness. The general opinion was that the Issue Team meetings reflect a positive change in Omya's responsiveness to the community and Omya's efforts at openly exchanging information are appreciated. One member spoke directly to the fact that the dialogue and presentation of ideas back and forth between the Team and Omya is conducive to the overall feeling that the company has made strides in its relationship with the neighborhood and local community.

Tailings Dewatering Facility

A second new topic was raised during discussions in Section III regarding the Tailings Dewatering Facility currently under construction. The key questions asked were:

1. Is there a market for the tailings?
2. What are Omya's plans for marketing tailings to find an end user/customer?

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3. Does Omya have a contingency plan for the tailings if no market or end user/customer is found?
 4. What will Omya do with the tailings already in the tailings management areas?
- Jim and Sean agreed to bring back information regarding this at the next meeting.

Noise

Lastly, a new question was raised about the noise created by back-up sound alarms primarily, but not exclusively, from loader trucks. Is Omya addressing this issue and have other alternatives been sought to alleviate this noise?

Next Steps

Discussions throughout Section III raised several new issues to be addressed at the next meeting and both Sean and Jim stated they would report back to the Team the information they gather on each topic. The Next Steps include:

1. Answers to specific questions noted in discussion section specifically Question 4 and Question 5 of Section III Discussion of Prioritized Issues.
2. Report back on Omya's future plans as result of the Section 5 Study and how that information will be addressed to the community.
3. Information on Tailings Dewatering Facility: Construction updates, consideration of Noise Issues and plans for marketing of the tailings.
4. Address Back-up alarm noise from Trucks.
5. Update from the April meeting of the Ongoing Noise Study by L.G. Copley Associates.

The Teams' list of prioritized issues continues to be (1) Surface and Stormwater Management, (2) Noise Management, (3) Tailings Management and (4) Sense of Community.

V. Wrap Up

The date set for the fifth Plant Issues Team meeting is Monday, June 2, 2008 at 6:00PM in the Maclure Library.