

Omya Community Issue Team – September 2009 Meeting Meeting Summary

Location: Omya Verpol Plant

Date: September 24, 2009

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendees (in alphabetical order):

Ernest Brod – Florence resident
Sharon Carpenter – Florence resident
Peg Flory – Pittsford resident and State Representative
Matt Harvey – Pittsford resident
John Haverstock – Pittsford Town Manager
John Lapre – Florence resident
Mike Laurent – Environmental Manager, Omya
Pierre Masuy – Verpol Plant Manager, Omya
Jim Morale – PX Area Manager, Omya
Bev Peterson – Florence resident
Umberto “Pat” Rosato – Florence resident
Mary-Kaye Zambon – Administrative Assistant, Omya
David Thayer – Facilitator, CLF Ventures

Absent:

Fred McAtee – Florence resident
Jon Keith – Pittsford resident and local business owner
David Markowski – Florence resident and local business owner
Jack Orvis – Florence resident
Jane Orvis – Florence resident

I. Welcome

Pierre Masuy welcomed the team members to the third Community Issue Team meeting and presented the agenda which included a tour of the Tailings Dewatering Facility. Pierre extended an invitation to the Issue Team Members to attend a Ribbon Cutting Event planned for October 8, 2009. Pierre also noted that Jack and Jane Orvis have chosen not to continue on as members of the Issue Team. Pierre expressed gratitude toward the long standing efforts that the Orvis’ made and for their expressed support of the Issue Team process.

II. Topic 1: Tailings Dewatering Facility

Before proceeding on a tour of the Tailings Dewatering Facility (TDF), Mike Laurent provided a brief overview of the facility. A fact card highlighting the key points of the facility was provided to assist team members’ understanding of the facility and to aid in the sharing of the information to their neighbors. Key points included:

- The TDF is the first facility of this type for Omya;
- The \$10 million dollar facility was designed, engineered and built by Vermont-based firms and contractors;
- The facility’s enclosed water system reduces the water content of tailings from 90% to less than 10%;

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- The TDF eliminates the use of open settling cells and allows more efficient management of tailings;
- The facility typically recycles 750,000 gallons of water per day back into plant processes and further reinforces Omya's continuous on-site water recycling management;
- The TDF reduces the water content of the tailings, which presents new markets and opportunities for Omya to reduce the need to retain the material on-site. Efforts continue to find end users; and
- The TDF embodies Omya's commitment to responsible environmental practices and to business development in Vermont well into the future.

The Issue Team proceeded to the TDF for a tour led by Mike. A debrief and further discussion of tailings management was held following the tour.

Mike explained that dialogue with State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources continues on Omya's Full Certification application to construct a lined Tailings Management Facility. Omya filed its application for Full Certification of its tailings management operations on May 8, 2009. The State has notified Omya that the application is technically complete. A 30 day Public comment period including a public meeting administered by the state is required. Notice of hearing dates will be posted.

Before closing this topic, Mike further added that on-site surface and groundwater monitoring continues. All samples for on-site and off-site wells were consistent with previous monitoring results and in conformance with regulatory requirements. The next scheduled water monitoring event will occur October 26 - 30, 2009.

III. Topic 2: Lost Trucks

Team members stated that lost trucks continue to be an issue. During the summer months it was felt that the number of lost trucks were minimal, however an increase has been seen over recent months. Several incidents of truck turnarounds causing property damage have been reported.

An internal system at Verpol tracks each "lost" truck that is reported and the issue is addressed with operators of those trucks once they arrive on site. Follow-up to each complaint is pursued through contact with the trucking companies and customers directly. A team member expressed concerns that carriers may be using an old mailing address. Other members reiterated the need for more signage and perhaps clarification of the road names on route to plant. Another suggestion was for Omya to look into the possibility of imprinting its name on the road itself due to State sign restrictions. Mike informed the team of his efforts to bring a representative from VT AOT to a meeting to address this issue.

Two team members are current members of the Rutland Region Transportation Council which represents 27 municipalities and both suggested bringing the lost truck issue up at the next Council meeting. Local town managers who have been previously contacted by Omya on this issue are on the Council as well. This forum may provide a positive opportunity to collaborate on finding a solution.

Omya will administer a survey of carriers arriving on-site to help determine:

1. Routes traveled to Omya Verpol;

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2. Directions provided; and
3. Difficulties in locating Omya Verpol.

In addition, the survey will give Omya an opportunity to communicate directly with drivers and reconfirm that access to Omya is via U.S. Route 7 only. Omya is providing written communications to customers identifying and asking for their help in solving this issue.

It was unanimously agreed that as a last resort it may be necessary to secure additional police enforcement. The team continues to seek ways to improve the situation.

IV. Topic 3: News, Updates, and Next Steps for Action Items

Other topics briefly updated and discussed were:

Noise

Due to lower production demands the Plant has not been running at full capacity; therefore the additional confirmatory noise monitoring has not been completed. This monitoring will be scheduled before the next Issue Team meeting in December.

Rail Road questions

A brief discussion was had about the scheduled timing of the rail road switching of cars and whether there is any flexibility in altering that schedule. Omya will contact Vermont Rail to discuss the process and requirements involved.

Pierre noted that Vermont Rail Road's discussion of the implementation of lights and whistles at the crossings approaching Omya will be held in the New Year.

Hogback Quarry

Omya has postponed submittal of its Act 250 permit application for extended Hogback Quarry operations until the Spring of 2010. The project will be revisited at that time.

Miscellaneous

Quarry Open House – October 17, 2009

Omya Fall Newsletter 2009 – mailing date end of November

V. Next Steps

The next steps include:

1. Progress report on lost truck issue.
2. Update on Full Certification application for Tailings Management Area (TMA).
3. Analyze speed strip data to determine vehicle type.
4. Noise update.
5. Update on Tailings Dewatering Facility (TDF) end users.

VI. Wrap-Up

The next meeting date was set for Thursday, December 3, 2009 at Omya's Verpol Plant in Florence.