

**FMC MIDDLEPORT  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL  
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY  
6-16-10**

**Community Members Present:** Paul Collins, Dick Owen, Sandy Owen, Mike Fisher, Dan Dodge

**FMC Representatives Present:** Andy Twarowski, Glen Wilson, and Deb Overkamp (AMEC Geomatrix).

**Facilitator:** Ann Howard

Ann Howard opened the meeting at 6:15. The agenda of this meeting included a presentation from Andy Twarowski - FMC, new member recruitment, Plant Open House Debrief, FMC and Community Update, proposed September meeting agenda.

**ANDY TWAROWSKI – FMC – “FMC Local Economic Impact”**

Andy Twarowski provided a brief overview of the local impact that the FMC Middleport plant has on the local economy. Andy stated that annually, the plant's economic footprint is over \$6 million. Spending in the local Middleport area is approximately \$384,000, with the largest vendor being the Old Pickle Factory, a supplier of labels and product containers. Regionally, FMC spends over \$1.7 million dollars for local suppliers, contractors, and vendors. Andy summarized the typical services that the various vendors provide to FMC. In addition, FMC makes donations to the United Way, Roy-Hart Booster Fund, and other local community groups.

**PLANT OPEN HOUSE DEBRIEF**

Over 300 community members attended the May 15 Open House, despite the cool and windy weather, with Assemblywoman Jane Corwin being among the visitors. In response to the good turnout, 6 plant tours, 2 water treatment tours, and one CAMU tour were given. Paul Collins reported that he had two people sign up to become CAP members. Deb Overkamp stated that letters had been mailed to those individuals inviting them to tonight's meeting. Overall, it was a very successful event.

**PLANT UPDATE**

Andy reported that the plant has reached a new 5 month production record. He stated that typically the months of June and July can be impacted by weather, along with the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter volumes (January through March). This year, conditions were favorable and demand for Command was strong. The EPA cancellation of FMC's registration for Furadan has an impact on production volumes. However, this has been offset with the closing of the Jacksonville plant in 2008/2009, in which the Middleport facility picked up some of their products. Furadan is an effective product used on rice, corn, alfalfa, and sugar cane. Despite the cancellation of the registration in the US, FMC is still able to export product to other countries, primarily South America (Argentina, Brazil) and Asia. Basically, it can be manufactured, but not applied/used in the US. The EPA believes

there are other safer, less toxic alternatives to Furadan. FMC is still in the appeal process to overturn the EPA's decision.

Andy mentioned that the active ingredient for Furadan comes from a Bayer plant in West Virginia. About a year and a half ago, there was an explosion at the plant, which also produced methyl isocyanide (or MIC). As a result of the explosion, the EPA ordered the plant to stop making Carbofuran (the active ingredient for Furadan). FMC will now begin receiving that product from new producers in Asia.

MIC was what was released from the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India in 1984. The release killed a large number of people. This brought to light the importance of chemical safety in the chemical industry. Up until 1986, FMC had MIC trucked to the Middleport plant from West Virginia. Since 1986, the Middleport facility became a mixing and packaging facility. Ann Howard noted that in the last couple of weeks at least two people were convicted in India for the Bhopal disaster (the Chief Operating Officer and the Plant Manager) and were sentenced to jail and were heavily fined. A CAP member asked if this was what was released from the FMC plant. Andy responded that yes it was the same material and it occurred two weeks before the Bhopal incident. He explained that a MIC pump had a leak in the northeast corner of the plant and as a precaution the school was evacuated.

Andy met with Paul Norwatka (sp) to discuss the Roy-Hart School emergency response plan. The plant is coordinating a drill with the Middleport Fire Department and is currently scheduled for September. Lastly, a fence line audit was conducted and there are areas that need to have vegetation removed – a four foot buffer needs to be maintained around the fence perimeter to prevent tall brush from growing.

Andy then provided an overview of the investment FMC is making in the plant site's future. FMC Middleport is utilizing the LEAN concept which puts the power in employees' hands to increase efficiency. FMC believes the best way to invest is in their people, which results in improved quality and efficiency.

Currently, there are 54 full-time employees and 15 temps. The plant is over 450 days without a recordable injury. Milton Steele, Vice President and General Manager of APG came to Middleport on April 30<sup>th</sup> to recognize all the employees on their safety performance.

Deb Overkamp noted that FMC made \$100 donation to the Middleport Area Tourism and Beautification Committee for the Girls Scouts Barrel Contest prizes and Andy presented three \$500 scholarships to Roy-Hart Seniors at their awards banquet last week. In addition, Andy made a \$500 donation to the Roy-Hart Sports Boosters and mailed a letter asking 90 other local businesses to support Roy-Hart sports with a donation. A copy of FMC's Keeping You Posted handout was distributed, which summarizes FMC's environmental programs.

## **COMMUNITY UPDATE**

Mike Fisher mentioned that the High School graduation ceremony will take place on June 26<sup>th</sup> and the addition is open at the Gasport Site.

Dan Dodge noted that the Main Street Grant monies have not yet been allocated. He has been working with NYSHPO to get the funds released. Many of the buildings identified in the grant application qualify as being historic buildings. This would require special restoration procedures and ultimately would increase the cost of the project for each business owner.

Dan also mentioned that the pavilion at Margaret Droman Park is not yet completed. They are working with the Canal Corp to finish modifications to the electrical lines that were installed.

Andy noted that the Roy-Hart Business and Professional Association is thinking about having signs installed on Rt. 31 that highlight the key businesses in Middleport and direct them to the Central Business District.

## **NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT**

Sandy Owen will speak with Rebecca Hinkson, Andy will re-invite the other potential members to the September meeting, and Glen Wilson will assist in identifying a new plant employee for the CAP.

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

**The next meeting of the Middleport FMC CAP will be held on September 15, 2010. The agenda will include: presentation from FMC regarding research and development, FMC and community updates, and new member recruitment.**