

# INEOS ABS

## Public Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2014

*The meeting started at 5:05 p.m. at the Addyston Municipal Building.*

### **Facilitator:**

Deb Leonard, Environmental Quality Management, Inc. (EQ)

### **PAG Members Present (in alphabetical order): 15**

Paul Beck, Miami Township Trustee

Tim Benter, Health, Environmental and Safety (HES) Manager, INEOS ABS

Tanya Carter, Sayler Park resident

Eric Cassisa, Site Manager, INEOS ABS

Mike Fair, Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency, Division of Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services

Brad Fattlar, Environmental Engineer, INEOS ABS

Rick Fulwiler, Miami Township resident

Joel Gayetsky, Miami Township resident

Don Larrick, Three Rivers School District

Denny Meyer, Sayler Park resident

Fred Myers, Miami Township resident

Marti Myers, Miami Township resident

Chief Steve Ober, Miami Township Fire Department

Bob Sandhas, Miami Township resident

Mark Townsend, Sr. Environmental Specialist, INEOS ABS

### **Handouts:**

The following handouts were distributed to PAG members:

- Agenda
- Environmental and Safety Performance handout
- Meeting minutes from June 26, 2014 PAG meeting
- 2014 INEOS PAG meeting schedule

## Meeting:

Facilitator Deb Leonard welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

### 1) **Plant Safety Performance Update — Tim Benter, Health, Environmental & Safety Manager**

- **OSHA Recordable Injuries**

- On June 30, 2014, the plant experienced an OSHA recordable injury. A compounding technician partially tore a bicep tendon while lifting a 40-pound sack of powder. The technician is currently on restricted work duty. As a result of the incident, the plant is installing more lift tables, redesigning the area where the technician was injured, and looking into ways to eliminate workers handling heavy boxes and bags of materials (e.g., converting to totes).
- The plant's TRIR (Total Recordable Incidence Rate) is currently 0.62 (including contractors) for the 12-month period.

- **First Aid Incidents**

- The plant has experienced 9 first aid injuries since the last PAG meeting on June 26, 2014:
  - July 1, 2014 – WWTP technician tripped on a piece of plywood that was covering a hole in the ground and strained back
  - July 2, 2014 – 8 Building bulk technician fell and injured shoulder
  - July 15, 2014 – Contractor cut finger on sharp plastic or glass
  - July 19, 2014 – Technician was burned on a pump's seal fluid reservoir. The technician had on gloves and a long sleeved shirt, but skin was exposed when reaching to do pump reading.
  - July 21, 2014 – Contractor employee strained neck because they tried to hold overhead grating rather than use jack supports. This contractor is no longer permitted on the property because they refused to report the injury to the medical department.
  - July 28, 2014 – Mechanic scraped back on valve stem. Orange caps have been put on all the valves in that area to help prevent future injuries.
  - July 31, 2014 – Technician got an insect bite while cutting weeds at riverbank
  - August 5, 2014 – Contractor got chigger bites while working
  - August 15, 2014 – Contractor cut hand on a plastic sampling container

### 2) **Environmental Performance Update — Brad Fattlar, Environmental Engineer and Mark Townsend, Sr. Environmental Specialist**

- **Plant Alarms**

- The plant experienced the following alarms since the last PAG meeting:
  - A pellet conveyer blower in 9 Building started to smoke after it became plugged. The Fire Brigade responded.

- July 21, 2014 – A technician checked the strainer on a pump to see if it was clogged. There was no valve on the pump, so the rubber solution inside of it leaked. The Fire Brigade put foam on it to suppress the chemical vapors.
  - There were two false alarms since the last PAG meeting (Fire Brigade responded):
    - Broken sprinkler head
    - Water entered a pull box and tripped the box
  - July 15, 2014 – Emergency drill took place. Fire Brigade responded.
  - The alarm is tested once a month at 11 a.m. (first Wednesday of each month).
- **Equipment Malfunctions**
  - To date in 2014, there have been 14 equipment malfunctions, totaling 403 pounds of chemicals released to the atmosphere.
  - There haven't been any equipment malfunctions since May 20, 2014.
- **Spills to the Ohio River**
  - There have been 0 spills to the river or to the stormwater sewer system since the last PAG meeting.
- **Community Feedback**
  - To date in 2014, there have been 19 community complaints: 7 for chemical odors, 7 for wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) odors, and 5 for others (3 burnt plastic odors, 1 skunk, and 1 noise).
  - Since the last PAG meeting in June, there were 5 community complaints, 1 for the WWTP, 3 for chemical smells, and 1 for noise:
    - July 22, 2014 – Noise complaint regarding loud sirens. This was likely from the fire horn sounding several times during fire brigade training.
    - July 22, 2014 – Complaint about a burnt plastic odor. A plant compounding line was shutting down but the wind was consistently blowing away from the plant on this day.
    - July 31, 2014 – Styrene odor was reported. Cause could not be isolated but could possibly have been from issues with the WWTP that day.
    - August 13, 2014 – Strong odor, attributed to mulch pit at WWTP (this is not the biofilter) where liquids are mixed with mulch in a drying pit and then taken to Rumpke for disposal. The mulch pit is most commonly used to absorb liquid latex, but on August 13<sup>th</sup> (and for several days prior) it was used to absorb sludge because the belt filter press was offline for maintenance.
    - August 22, 2014 – Complaint about a burnt plastic odor. Wind was all over the place that day; it may have been the WWTP.

- 17 of the 19 total complaint calls have been linked to the plant.

- **Emissions Summary**

- Every year the plant calculates the estimated annual emissions from the plant. In 2013, there was a 24% total reduction from 2012. The reduction is mostly due to the coal-fired boiler being taken out of service in August 2013.
- An even larger reduction expected for the 2014 summary because of the coal-fired boiler being out of service for an entire year.

- **Kibby Lane Monitoring Station**

- The Southwest Air Quality Agency, a division of the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES), operates the Kibby Lane monitoring station in Sayler Park.
- The station takes 24-hour composite air samples every six days using SUMMA canister technology. The samples are analyzed for about 60 different chemicals, including butadiene, acrylonitrile and styrene, the three main chemicals used at the plant. The results are publicized online at [www.southwestohioair.org](http://www.southwestohioair.org).
- The Kibby Lane monitor takes “long-term samples” for chronic risk analysis (lifetime exposure to chemicals). It does not take real-time samples or measure acute risks.
- The average year-to-date (2014) concentrations (in parts per billion) of acrylonitrile, butadiene, and styrene are:
  - Acrylonitrile: 1 ppb
  - Butadiene: 0.3 ppb
  - Styrene: 0.6 ppb
- Spike in butadiene, acrylonitrile and styrene concentrations on July 22, 2014

**3) Citizen Complaints — Mike Fair, Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency (a division of HCDOES)**

- The monitoring data collected on July 22, 2014 showed a spike in butadiene, styrene, and acrylonitrile levels. The plant and flare seemed to be running normally that day; the wind was blowing directly at the monitor for 24 hours. A possible explanation for the spike (offered by Mike) is the “September effect,” which is cooler temperatures at night, low wind speed, low mixing height, and dew point and temperature lining up. This can result in emissions which don’t move out of the lower atmosphere like they normally do and can lead to higher monitor values.
- The plant has been investigating the incident to determine why this anomaly occurred.
- Two odor complaints were called into the agency on July 31 and August 13 and are documented under the Community Feedback section above.

4) **Plant Business News — Eric Cassisa, Site Manager, INEOS ABS**

- The plant is doing better in terms of production and has recovered from the issues of last winter. The plant is preparing for the upcoming winter as to avoid equipment malfunctions that were caused by low temperatures last year. The heat tracing for the plant has been revised.
- The plant is preparing to shut down for a week or two in October for annual maintenance.
- The 2015 budget has been submitted and includes \$6 -\$6.5 million for capital projects.
- The employment numbers with the plant are pretty stable from year to year. There are currently 255 employees. The plant is trying to hire a new employee for the tank farm.

5) **Other Business**

- A resident of Erlanger, KY recently sent an email to all PAG members regarding emissions from the plant. The group discussed the email in detail and also discussed past correspondence with this resident.
- Deb wanted to check in and see how the frequency of meetings and start time are working for everyone. In general, the consensus was to keep the meetings from 5 – 7 p.m. every other month (six times a year).

6) **Community News**

- **Miami Township**

- Construction has begun for the new park in Miami Township (that adjoins the new school). The park will be 34 acres in size and will feature 2-3 tennis courts, baseball fields, soccer/football fields, and a small dog park. It will take about 18 months to complete.

- **Three Rivers School District**

- The new stadium has been up and running and in use, and the school district has a dedication planned for September 5. Alumni, dignitaries, and Bengals representatives will be present.

- **Sayler Park**

- Sayler Park will have a fall harvest festival the second week in October.
- The annual Sayler Park reunion will be held in September.

- **Miami Township Fire Department**

- The sheriff's department is hosting a drug take back program at the Miami Township firehouse on Shady Lane on September 27 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- The Deer Run Golf Course is closing on November 30. The neighborhood association is signing a rezoning document for the golf course and half of the property will be used to build houses, and the other half will remain green space.

**6) Planning for Next Meeting**

- The next PAG meeting is scheduled for 5-7 p.m., Thursday, October 23, 2014 at the North Bend Administration Building.

*The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.*