

Altona Complex Neighbourhood Consultative Group (ACNCG)

Held on Thursday 10 May 2018

Dow Chemicals, 541 Kororoit Creek Rd, Altona

Commencing at 6.00pm

Present:

ACNCG Resident Members

Chris Rider

QENOS

Robert Berton

Les Harman

Andrew Lake

Nick Young

EnviroPacific

Jared Roberts

Tai Truong

WorkSafe

Not Present

EPA

Not Present

Council Representatives

Sarah Bartolo

Brendan Murphy

DOW

Lim Kah Chuan

Nivanyah Kukan

Ashley Clemmet

Camillo Coladouato

Justin Jones

Yashar Davoodi

Jon Rumbold

City West Water

Joe Messina

1. Welcome/Apologies

Brendan Murphy opened the meeting at 6.02pm and welcomed everyone.

Apologies: Cr Sandra Wilson, Judy Hindle (ACNCG Member) and Anita Scordia (EPA).

2. Invitation for comments by visitors

No visitors.

3. Confirmation of Minutes from Meeting Held 2 November 2017

The minutes from the meeting held on Thursday, 2 November 2017 were confirmed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

Moved: Andrew Lake

Seconded: Nivanyah Kukan

Carried

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of the previous minutes on 2 November 2017.

- Community involvement still an issue and suggested ACNCG be posted on Council website – Advertised currently on ACNCG website under 'Upcoming Events'. Social media not favoured i.e. Facebook, not a good forum. Preferred connection is Hobsons Bay Council website.

Company Reports

5.1 Dow Update

Nivanyah updated the members as follows:

- Safety Case – DOW granted 5 year unconditional Major Hazard Facility (MHF) license
- No reportable injuries since May 2016
- One recordable containment loss mid-March 2018
 - Water containing minor amounts of non-hazardous polyol overflowed due to blockage in transfer pump
 - Operators shut gates to prevent leakage via storm water and was contained on site
 - Reported to EPA
- 7 week maintenance Turnaround early February 2018
 - Successful turnaround
 - 400 work permits
 - 41 confined space entry permits
 - Over 1 dozen high energy (welding, grinding) tasks in hazardous areas
 - 5000 man hours without incident
- ANZ Hub Meeting
 - Experts from Asia provided 3 day training to share knowledge
 - Topics consisted of Personal Health & Safety, Behaviour Based Performance, Fall Protection, Industrial Hygiene and EH&S Innovation
 - Team able to observe best practice
- Sourdough Project
 - Aim to automate process of raw material to reduce manual handling
 - Reduce handling of hot material and no extra PPE

CWW

Compliant with current trade waste agreement.

5.2 Genos Update

Andrew updated the members as follows:

Community Engagement

- Joint February EMT
- Odour Audit conducted 8th May – Andrew thanked Chris Rider for his support and appreciated his time during audit
- Genos selected by Dept. of Environment & Energy to participate in OECD on 23rd March to provide input on chemical regulations
- Community Notification - Major Maintenance period in April – Formerly letters distributed by letter drop, Star Weekly used on this occasion to advertise however discovered residents did not receive newspaper. Also used ACNCG and Genos website
- 1 flare noise complaint and 6 plausible odour complaints

Regulatory Interface

- PFAS Clean Up Plan – EPA working through documentation, expecting response in couple of months
- Accepted invitation from EPA to attend Good Environmental Site Practices, to engage industry
- WorkSafe – 3 Incidents notified to EPA
 - 2 March - Technician brushed live equipment

- 23 March – Furnace fan tripped causing small fire on silicon sealant, near miss but consequence
- 13 April – Ethylene leak, MBF attended, EPA report pending

2018 Focus

- SHE performance
 - SHE Dashboard – Purpose to maximise visibility across company network
 - PFAS Clean Up Plan submitted on schedule
 - Safety Case – 5 year unconditional license exceptional outcome
- Business outlook
 - Maintenance works successfully completed at Olefins and Plastics
 - Working with suppliers to obtain more ethane feedstock
 - Energy costs major challenge, lots of change and improvements
 - New milk bottle progressing well in market
 - 2017 iTransform awards held in March to recognise innovation at Qenos

6. Regulatory updates

Joe of CWW updated the members as follows:

- No major changes in trade waste agreement of parameter listings
- New trade waste agreement for soil remediation for EnviroPacific
- Currently monitoring and studying PFAS at Werribee Treatment Plant to see what is coming and going. All water authorities involved. EPA responsible for what goes out into the environment.
- Purpose is to eliminate contaminants

KC asked what was driving this topic of contaminated water and soil. Joe stated in particular water contamination, customers were approaching CWW such as airports, commercial premises curious as to how it was being disposed of, questioning whether it was through the sewerage system.

7. Community Complaints

Les reported on complaints received from February 2018 to April 2018. Link provided below.

<https://acncg.info/assets/Uploads/May-2018-EAL-report.pdf>

8. General Business

No General Business.

9. Company Presentation

EnviroPacific SOLVE Soil Treatment Facility – Presented by Jared Roberts

- Solve Treatment Facility working with all regulators including Vic EPA and Worksafe
- Recently accepted 4,000 tonne to be treated over 7-8 day spread
- Coloured lines to direct trucks to contaminated and treated soil areas

Chris Rider noted that some drivers may be colour blind and what would happen in the event a truck goes the wrong way. Robert advised all contractors are given induction prior to entering the site where they physically if work through process. There is signage and arrows

as well which clearly indicates where they need to go, lines are simply back up. There is also operator radio communication to redirect or open rollers doors for access.

- Plant Capacity is 20-30 tonnes per hour
- Soil temperature is up to 600 °C
- Gas treatment temperature up to 1,100°C
- PFAs can be broken down
- Jared gave open invitation for walk through though a controlled opening will be offered in July when they obtain their license
- KC thanked Jared for presentation

Questions

- Yashar Davoodi asked hours of operation, Jared responded 24/7 operation.
- Brendan Murphy asked what EnviroPacific do with soil that generates waste products. Jared replied metal contaminates may not be able to be treated through thermal processes as metal won't absorb and may produce a waste. Carbon based waste is filtered and re-enters the system, therefore very little waste. EnviroPacific understand what they can and cannot treat. Treated soil is primarily used for land fill cover, over time looking into 'Type B' fill which is middle layer for freeways.
- Brendan also asked if treatment times vary. Jared replied all treatments are different based on chemical type i.e. PFAS (foam) amount of time, temperature of heat etc.
- Joe Messina questioned truck movement and whether induction was conducted onsite/offsite, Jared replied both.
- Joe also asked how EnviroPacific can guarantee specific types of waste that enters the facility and also how they can guarantee controlled spillage on the streets. Jared stated no trucks can come onsite unless they complete a 3 day EPA licensing course. Jared also noted if trucks do not look satisfactory they will not enter site however it is unlikely as they are dealing with smaller contractors.
- In response to Joe's second question. Jared replied that trucks carrying material would be coming from the city and because it is a cost per tonne exercise, they would go most efficient route which is the freeway. They also see material before it comes onsite and unlikely to be multiple or combined loads of dirty soil. It is tightly managed, they receive a list of analytical results of soil before accepting anything, internal samples verified also. Joe requested traceability of where soil is coming from.
- Chris Rider questioned access route into Altona, concerned about traffic management with more trucks on the road, particularly Millers Road. Jared responded that most likely route would be Kororoit Creek Rd, via freeway, then Grieve Pde and then Millers Rd. Jared stated EnviroPacific intended to be there for a long time and wanted to ensure EnviroPacific would be receptive to all challenges for residents
- Chris Rider asked about conveyer belts and whether any were exposed to air? Jared stated all belts were covered and system is under vacuum. Jared suggested Chris go on a tour.

Presentation link provided below:

<https://acncg.info/assets/Uploads/SOLVE-Presentation-ACNCG-13-February-2018.pdf>

- 18 month journey preparing for safety case.
- Joe Messina asked what does 'unconditional license' mean? Jon stated these are facilities of lesser concern where there is highly controlled risk. Regulator authorities can place conditions on special topics such as auditing or other areas. License maximum of 5 years. For example if a MHF are issued with a 3 year conditional license, it means regulator is not overly confident in managing their risks and controls. WorkSafe make the decision.
- Dow license required to be renewed therefore were required to submit a safety case.
- Safety case approximately 1,500 page document.
- 5000 man hours spent on safety case. Only 40 employees onsite so massive undertaking.
- DOW achieved 5 year unconditional license.
- Safety case not just brain storming exercise, actual do internal workshops.
- Joe Messina asked if DOW incorporated EnviroPacific in their risk assessment at their site to which Jon responded 'Yes'. Jon stated a hazard does not change but a risk can increase i.e. Blast waves can impact on their site, need to consider consequences, injuries etc.
- Joe also asked if there were risk assessment audits. Jon responded there are annual over-sight audits that run for 3-4 days. There are also 3 other visit per year as spot audits for areas of focus.
- Joe asked whether there are different levels of non-conformance. Jon stated the company can be held accountable and there can be changes to a license.
- Chris Rider commented on the importance of employees in preventing major incidents and asked Jon about the importance of Dow's staff in their operating their facility safely. Jon replied:
 - Staff have training and the autonomy to make decisions
 - Staff practice emergencies and incidents certain times throughout the year
 - Staff are highly trained and experienced
- Jon also stated in regards to training:
 - Staff training is tracked and managed
 - Programs are offered on days and shift cycles
 - There are dedicated training days and in plant training, specific to hazards in their facility.
 - With decisions, there is a philosophy of empowerment 'within boundaries'
 - Extensive set of procedures and high degree of ownership
- Brendan Murphy asked with change to circumstances, can there be amendments to the safety case made to Worksafe. Jon stated yes, WorkSafe would need to be notified and advised of process and methodology, change management accessed and approved.

Presentation link provided below:

<https://acncg.info/assets/Uploads/Dow-Safety-Case-Summary-ACNCG.pdf>

10. Brendan Murphy declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm. Next meeting 8th November.