

SUPERIOR REFINERY

Community Advisory Panel

sponsored by Murphy Oil USA, Inc.

**Murphy Oil USA, Inc.
Superior Refinery Community Advisory Panel
Thursday, March 9, 2006
5:30 p.m.**

Members: Robert Browne, Charlie Glazman, Greg Guenard, Keith Kesler, Tad Matheson, Fariba Pendleton, John Robinson, Tom Strewler, Diane Thompson

Company Representatives: Dave Podratz, Dave Beattie, Liz Lundmark, Corey Meade

Guests: Chuck Ledin

Facilitator: John McPherson, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

The March 2006 meeting of the Murphy Oil Superior Refinery CAP was called to order at 5:30 p.m. CDT by Facilitator John McPherson. The meeting was held at the WITC Conference Center in Superior. Minutes of the prior meeting were reviewed and approved.

Refinery/Company Report

Dave Podratz presented the report for the Superior Refinery, including operational highlights, and environmental and safety performance reports. *A copy of the complete report is included with these minutes.*

Environmental highlights:

Dave remarked that February was the best month he can remember in the six years he has been at the refinery. There were no exceedances of any kind and there were no odor complaints. On March first there was one minor opacity exceedance. Dave said he believed the performance is another indication the facility has turned the corner on equipment reliability issues.

Safety highlights:

The facility has gone 641 days without a lost-time incident. No recordable injuries have occurred within the last year. One near-miss was reported; an operator discovered oil leaking from a corroded pump case. The equipment was repaired before a problem could occur.

Refinery Operations

Refinery operations continue strong. Demand has fallen off, but margins are uncharacteristically high. The Canadian crude processed at the refinery is priced about \$20 cheaper than the market price for crude oil quoted on the international exchanges.

A draft air permit was issued by the DNR. April 5th there will be a public hearing at DNR offices in the old Post Office. The permit will allow changes for the production of low-sulfur oil. Changes in the permit are minimal and no public opposition is anticipated.

The refinery was the sole bidder for the 66-acre tract of land put up for auction by the county. The land acquisition will allow the creation of a buffer zone and the potential for plant expansion.

Refinery employees completed 16-hours of safety training and Hazardous materials training.

Dave discussed the results of an EPA five-year review of the facility response plan. The review went very well. Some minor deficiencies were reported, but most were technical in nature.

Community Discussion

About a dozen Refinery employees attended Superior Days. Fariba Pendleton said the facility set a great example in their involvement in Superior Days and thanked the Refinery. Charlie Glazman said legislators remarked about the increased involvement of business in the event. Bob Browne said he believed it was the best of the Superior Days events he has attended. He said he believed the meetings went particularly well. He thanked Fariba Pendleton for her work with the event. He also noted that the subjects for discussion in the last several CAP meetings, such as Green Tier, fostered discussion and cooperation.

Diane Thompson provided information on the upcoming carnival sponsored by the St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee. The event includes a gala at the aquarium and seminars at WITC.

Continuing Business

Public relations – John McPherson reviewed CAP member suggestions that the Refinery let the public know about the excellent safety and performance record at the facility. Dave Podratz said a release might be scheduled to coincide with the refinery's award from the Petroleum Refiners Association, upcoming this spring.

Newton Creek – There was discussion about the CAP/Refinery-sponsored cleanup of Newton Creek. Diane Thompson suggested the cleanup might be coordinated with an annual spring cleanup sponsored by the St. Louis River Citizen's Action group. The date set for this clean-up is May 20th. The St. Louis River group's cleanup will begin at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 12 noon. Tom Strewler volunteered to survey science teachers to find a group of students who might be able to assist.

More information on the St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee and the Riverside Cleanup can be found on the SLRCAC's website at: www.stlouisriver.org.

New Business

Great Lakes Initiative – *Chuck Ledin*

Chuck Ledin of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources presented information on the Great Lakes Initiative. He discussed two recent agreements that created a new blueprint for the Great Lakes. The plans provide a regional plan for cleanup and environmental management of the Great Lakes basin, including states and provinces in the United States and Canada.

Chuck noted the Great Lakes provide enormous benefits to the region, especially billions of dollars in recreational boating and fishing. Previously a lack of coordinated effort on behalf of the Great Lakes region led to substantial funding going to other areas with better regional cooperation, including the Chesapeake Bay region and San Francisco Bay.

Priorities of the Great Lakes Initiative include the control and/or removal of exotic species, restoration and protection of wetlands, and restoration of tributaries. Other areas include beach restoration and health and a drive to de-list areas of environmental concern by cleaning up contaminated areas. Of 34 areas in the U-S Great Lakes, none have yet been addressed. Locally the Duluth-Superior Inlet is on the list.

