

# **SUPERIOR REFINERY**

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*sponsored by Murphy Oil USA, Inc.*

## **Community Advisory Panel**

**Minutes of the Murphy Oil Superior Refinery Community Advisory Panel  
Murphy Training Room  
Thursday, August 9, 2007**

**Members:** Connie Antonuk, Bobbi Germond, Doug Finn, Charlie Glazman, Pat Heiser, Fariba Pendleton, Chester Petzold, Tom Strewler, Diane Thompson

**Company Representatives:** Dave Podratz, Liz Lundmark, Corey Mead,

**Facilitator:** Marysue Knowles, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

**Minutes:** Marysue Knowles

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The regular meeting of the Murphy Oil Superior Refinery CAP was called to order at 6 p.m. by facilitator Marysue Knowles, who was filling in for vacationing John McPherson.

Marysue Knowles reviewed the agenda. The minutes from the June meeting were approved as distributed.

### **Refinery/Company Report**

Dave Podratz presented the report for the Superior Refinery, including operational highlights, environmental and safety performance reports, and community odor complaints. He noted that since the CAP did not meet in July, the report encompassed two months of refinery activity. **[A copy of this complete report is included with these minutes.]**

### **Environmental highlights:**

There was a significant spill in June of approximately 7,000 gallons of gasoline from tank #70. The spill was the result of a faulty gauge. There is an ongoing program to update tank gauges with new technology. The new type of gauges shoots out a radar

signal to measure the amount of material inside the tanks. The old mechanical gauges will be kept on the tanks to serve as a back-up.

There was a brief upset on June 11, 2007 on the amine system as the FCC gasoline desulfurizer was starting up. There were excess emissions of approximately five pounds SO<sub>2</sub> from the incinerator. There also was an upset on July 6, 2007 when the fuel gas amine absorber bypassed for three minutes during a pressure upset. This resulted in flare emissions of approximately 636 pounds of SO<sub>2</sub>.

Sticky slide valves led to opacity exceedances at FCC in both June and July. A 12-minute exceedance occurred on June 10 and again on June 14. Six-minute exceedances occurred on July 22 and July 31.

The wastewater treatment system continues to operate well and there have been no odor complaints, year-to-date.

#### Safety highlights:

Since the #70 tank overflow incident (noted above) created a fire hazard, the refinery's Emergency Response Team sprayed a foam blanket on top of the spilled gasoline to prevent a fire.

The refinery's streak of three years without a lost-time injury ended in June when an asphalt loader splashed hot asphalt on his arm. Dave Podratz noted that this incident could have been prevented with better communication between workers.

#### Production

Recent high margins due to production problems at other regional refineries have declined a bit. The BP refinery in Indiana recently re-started; and while this is good news for consumers, it has had an impact on Superior's margins.

#### **Community Discussion**

Connie Antonuk pointed out that the new DNR Secretary – Matt Frank – takes office September 1, 2007. Mr. Frank currently serves as Corrections Commissioner and also has worked in the Attorney General's office. He was referred to as hard-working and a good administrator. He will be invited to the refinery for the visit.

Bobbie Germond inquired if Murphy had secured a partner in order to move forward with a possible expansion. It was noted that a recent newspaper article quoted

Murphy as stating “they expect to have it wrapped up by the end of the year”; however, Dave Podratz added that no one from the publication ever contacted him. He said the reporter apparently wrote the story based upon information found on a website. Dave noted they still have not secured a partner but will continue to look for one. In the meantime, Murphy will continue with the environmental work for a possible expansion.

Fariba Pendleton reported that a Superior – Douglas County Leadership Group will meet on September 18, 2007. The group will focus on growth management associated with local economic development and emerging county issues. The event will include a visit to the Murphy refinery

Diane Thompson reported that NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) has agreed to include fresh water estuaries and reserves of Lake Superior in Wisconsin in the NERR (National Estuarine Research Reserve) site selection process. Among the sites being consider are the St. Louis River, Bark (?) River and three multi-component sites. An upcoming meeting will clarify what portion of the St. Louis River will be considered. Diane explained that in order for a site to move forward with the designation, there first must be a demonstration of community support. The NERR is a network of 27 areas representing different bio-geographic regions of the United States that are protected for long-term research, water-quality monitoring, education, and coastal stewardship. The NERR was established in 1972 as a partnership between NOAA and coastal states. **[It was suggested that a detailed presentation on NERR serve as the New Business topic for the September 13, 2007 panel meeting.]**

## **Unfinished Business**

### Mini-Grant Project Update

Tom Strewler reported that several suggested changes have been made to the CAP’s Mini-Grant project application. These include a change in the application language *requiring* the recipients to make a presentation to the CAP. Local school districts also will be contacted to distribute informational fliers to teachers, and a newspaper advertisement will be placed to encourage participation. Non-public schools also will be included. Fariba Pendleton agreed to assist with the program’s publicity efforts.

## **New Business**

### Tour of Marine Fueling Terminal

Members of the panel boarded a bus for a tour of the Murphy Marine Fueling Terminal in Duluth. Murphy purchased and refurbished the property in the late 1990's. The terminal serves as a re-fueling dock for all ships operating on this portion of Lake Superior.

The tour – conducted by terminal manager Joseph Cuseo – included the tank farm and explanation of containment and spill response. Mr. Cuseo also explained to the panel that the terminal is capable of custom fuel blending for its customers. The fuel is transported by truck from the Murphy refinery to the terminal. Payment arrangements are made prior to the ship's arrival at the terminal.

### **Adjournment**

Marysue Knowles reminded everyone to complete the meeting evaluation forms.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**  
**Topic: NERR**  
**Thursday, September 13, 2007**  
**Location: WITC**  
**5:30 p.m. Dinner**  
**6:00 p.m. Meeting**