

# ***SUPERIOR REFINERY***

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## **Community Advisory Panel**

*sponsored by Murphy Oil USA, Inc.*

### **Minutes**

**Murphy Oil Superior Refinery Community Advisory Panel  
Superior Refinery  
Thursday, September 13, 2007**

**Members:** Robert Browne, Scott Campbell, Doug Finn, Bobbi Germond, Charlie Glazman, Greg Guenard, Pat Heiser, Carol Lindberg, Bruce Lindgren, Sarah Matheson, Tad Matheson, MariBeth Olsen, Chester Petzold, Sandra Petzold, Tom Strewler, Dianne Thompson

**Guests:** Tom Jerow, DNR (for Connie Antonuk); Mark Miller (guest presenter for Superior Refinery); Sandra Miller

**Company Representatives:** Dave Podratz, Dave Beatty, Liz Lundmark

**Facilitator:** John McPherson, Ann Green Communications, Inc.

**Minutes:** John McPherson

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The regular meeting of the Murphy Oil Superior Refinery Community Advisory Panel (CAP) was called to order at 6 p.m. by facilitator John McPherson. The August minutes were reviewed and 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. [A copy of this complete report is included with these minutes.]

### **Environmental highlights:**

There were no spills at the refinery. However, one spill did occur at the loading facility, which is under separate ownership. Fifty gallons of an additive was spilled. One reportable air event occurred when an opacity exceeded by six minutes on August 17.

The cause of the incident was the removal of a plug of catalyst from the FCC unit with pressurized air. A blow-back caused opacity to exceed 20 percent.

There were no water permit violations. However, Dave noted that there was a great deal of algae growth during the warm weather in the artificial wetlands. This caused the pH to rise at the new monitor locations in the lower end of the pond. Operators were able to divert water back into the pond and avoid any release of high pH water into the environment. The approach of cooler weather will eliminate the algae problem. Plans are being created to avoid the problem in the future.

No odor complaints have been reported thus far this year.

The DNR conducted air inspections at the loading facility. Although this facility is not officially a part of the refinery, refinery environmental workers oversee the unit, and therefore assisted with the inspection.

Safety highlights:

There were no recordable or lost-time injuries. There was one reported muscle strain, constituting a first aid case.

Production

The charge rate of 33,000 barrels per day is approximately maximum capacity at the refinery under current operating conditions. Margins are good. A brief shut-down of the Crude Unit is planned in October to allow clearing of the distillation column and work on the Platformer unit. The shutdown will temporarily cut the gasoline by about half, but the result will be increased efficiency and higher production volumes.

A team of OSHA inspectors will be on-site as part of the agency's current emphasis on refinery safety. During the past month, inspectors arrived unannounced to interview workers and request documents. Following this preliminary inspection, the inspectors will return for two weeks for more detailed inspection. Dave noted that OSHA is using regional inspectors drawn from a variety of areas. However, none have been in a refinery before. Despite this fact, he believed a good working relationship has developed between inspectors and refinery workers, and he expects the inspections to go well.

Safety workers from the Mereaux Refinery have been on site to review Superior's behavior-based safety program, which has been very successful.

**Review – Media Coverage**

Copies of opinion pieces from the Madison newspaper and internet articles were distributed to members. Dave reviewed the pieces, which discussed various perspectives on the proposed refinery expansion project. **[Copies of these articles are included with these minutes. Also included are pieces Dave provided for distribution to members following the meeting.]**

Dave said he also received a call from the Canadian Broadcast Corporation and the Milwaukee Journal regarding expansion. Some of the coverage deals strictly with the prospect of expansion. However, some dwells on the perceived potential positive business aspects of expansion, while other articles dwell on the perceived potential negative environmental effects. Dave noted that the articles contained a mixed bag of fact and distortion, depending on the perspective of the writer, their understanding of issues involved, and the quality of their research.

Members discussed the potential effects of expansion, most of which are unknown at this time due to the preliminary nature of the planning. Air emissions are not expected to greatly increase due to of the high quality of new equipment that would be installed and the replacement of old equipment during construction. Dave noted that permitted water discharges would likely increase. Tom Jerow addressed the permitting process from the DNR perspective, stating that there would be ample public discussion during the process and that Murphy has been very open in their preliminary planning discussions.

Members suggested that Murphy continue to be open in discussing the nature of the project and consider providing additional details to the community as plans develop. Dave noted that Murphy has already had some internal discussions about the need for public awareness. He said Murphy was aware of problems caused by relying on only the permitting review process in regards to an attempted BP refinery expansion in Indiana. That expansion was halted by public outcry after the permitting process was already successfully completed.

### **Community Discussion**

There was a brief update regarding the Governor's proposal to implement a 2.5 percent fuel sales tax. The tax proposal currently appears to be stalemated in the State House. **[A newspaper opinion piece relating to this issue is included with these minutes.]**

Tad Matheson provided an update on efforts to familiarize emergency crews with industry. Grants available through the federal government are being pursued that will send teams comprised of local emergency workers and industry crew members to fire training school.

Tom Strewler provided an update on the status of the CAP mini grant program. Reminders have been distributed. Tom also discussed grants available for Great Lakes education programs.

## **New Business**

### *Overview of Refinery Emergency Response Plan*

Mark Miller presented an overview of the Superior Refinery's Emergency Response Plan. **[A copy of Mark's overview presentation is included with these minutes.]**

Mark also demonstrated the Superior Refinery's online Emergency Response Information System, which provides highly detailed emergency response information for numerous potential emergency response needs within the refinery and throughout the community. This online system is available on every computer in the refinery. Hard copies of the plan are also available within the refinery, and have been submitted to local emergency response personnel and government agencies.

There was discussion about various response possibilities and the distinction between appropriate response by refinery emergency crews and/or community emergency response personnel. Tom Jerow said that he was highly impressed with the plan, especially the detail in the response plans and information provided for drainage areas. Tad Matheson said that from a fire department perspective, the response plan is efficient and well organized.

## **Adjournment**

Following discussion, the September 13, 2007 meeting of the Superior Refinery CAP adjourned at 8 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**           **LERR (as postponed from September)**  
                                  **Thursday, October 11, 2007**  
                                  **WITC**  
                                  **5:30 Dinner**  
                                  **6:00 Meeting**