

Notes from November 18, 2008 Virginia Paving Community Liaison Committee Meeting

Attending:

Committee Members: Wendy Albert, Annabelle Fisher, Carol James, Chris Monahan, John Porter, Zina Raye, Bill Skrabak, Rich Josephson, Michael Kuhl

Committee Members Absent: Mindy Lyle

Others present: David Horton, John Irvine, Dennis Luzier, Mike Waite, Mary Catherine Gibbs, Tom Giles (FCC Environmental),

John Porter opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Chris Monahan, Va Paving (VAP), spoke about the operations at the plant. He indicated that 50 of 110 nights available under their SUP were used. David Horton, VAP, provided information about the number of tons produced (517,000) and the jobs done by VAP (WWB, City, Arlington, Ft. Belvoir, hotlanes). They fixed the entrance to their site on S. Van Dorn (Annabelle said it was not fixed and she would check it out).

There have been 18 complaints since the last Committee meeting. Each inquiry is treated as a valid complaint. 12 of the 18 were separate incidents. 11 of 12 were odor complaints. One complaint had to do with asphalt deposits at the entrance to the plant-this was fixed. Chris Monahan keeps a log that includes the nature of the complaint, date, time and notes. These are reported regularly to the City. He reported that not all of the 18 complaints came into the hotline. Of the 18, there were 9 that were answered via the hotline. Of the 9, 5 took some time but were resolved and 4 required some follow-up. All calls were answered within 30 minutes. One was not answered immediately because Chris had the ringer on his cell phone turned off.

Chris acknowledged that some improvement is needed with regard to the hotline, but feels that the response time is pretty good. He is proposing a new system with a new hotline number and a designated person who will respond. If the phone is not answered, the call will roll over to another person.

Annabelle thought that the City hotline was the first response and that that VAP was the second. Wendy stated that 30 minutes response seemed to be a good time. Lalit clarified that the first calls go to VAP hotline, and that the City hotline is more of a backup. Chris indicated that if calls need to be returned, they are usually done in 5 minutes. The new phone line will provide roll over capability, so there should be no need for call back.

Lalit suggested that VAP keep the current hotline phone number, since this the one that people already have. He also questioned whether the person answering the call is always on-site.

Regarding complaints about odors, Denny Luzier of VAP stated that about six weeks prior to the meeting, VAP started using SMA, or Stone matrix asphalt. Stone matrix asphalt (SMA), sometimes called stone mastic asphalt, is a type of hot mix asphalt originally developed in Europe to maximize resistance and durability. This mix was specified for use on the WWB project. There was a learning curve with regard to mixing this asphalt blend and it took some time to achieve the right mix. VAP does not anticipate using SMA this year, but may be using it again next year in the amount of 7-8,000 tons. There was some off-spec material that was made by VAP that was deposited in the on-site rap pile resulting in some odor issues and complaints. VAP has since amended the mixing process. There were also some corrections that have been made with regard to the blue smoke control filter that have reduced complaints. There was one complaint in the last 3-4 week - on November 1.

Annabelle asked if VAP was aware of prior problems with use of SMA. David Horton of VAP responded that it took time to get the right temperatures for the proper mix of SMA. Annabelle asked that the community be made aware when new mixes such as this are being used or tested. John Porter suggested that VAP let the City know, who in turn would let the VAP committee know, who can then provide information to the community. Zina Raye asked about the use of SMA next year (2009) and was advised by David Horton that there were probably up to about 8,000 tons programmed for use in the April 2009 time frame.

Bill Skrabak indicated that the City pushed VDOT to allow the use of a quieter mix of asphalt on roads to reduce road noise from vehicles. SMA is that type of mix. Chris Monahan said that VAP has revamped their best management practices to address odor complaints. There are new inspection protocols including a new pre-shift form and complaint form. Bill Skrabak stated that the City wrote a letter to VAP regarding the higher frequency of complaints.

Chris Monahan from VAP provided an update on their air permit application. He indicated that the requested modification is pending. There was additional stack testing done in the last three weeks, with the last test done in the last week. He hopes to report results to City before Christmas. There have been regular site inspections by Julius Holmes, the City's inspector, as well as by Fire, Code and Stormwater management inspectors. No outstanding issues have been identified as a result of these inspections.

Lalit Sharma of T&ES handed out the City's 2008 report on VAP. He reviewed production limits and stated that most of the projects required by the Special Use Permit had been completed. The condition regarding the truck fleet should be met by the end of the year. The condition requiring replacement of the locomotive is farther out. There have been about two dozen incidents that were reported concerning VAP this year.

Wendy Albert asked if there are other air quality monitoring stations in other parts of the City. Lalit indicated that there were other stations at the old Health Department building and other regional monitors.

VAP will provide formal written responses to the City's November 11 letter.

Carol James asked if there were plans to convert the VAP site into a park, based on some City long range plans. Rich Josephson responded that there were no immediate plans for the VAP site to become a park. He indicated that the Landmark Van Dorn (LVD) Plan did not include the VAP site, but that there were discussions during the planning process about how to connect the area north of the VAP site to the Van Dorn Metro Station and that one concept showed a connection over the VAP site. In order for that connection to actually occur, the VAP site would have to become a different use than an asphalt plant. Bill Skrabak indicated that a stormwater study was done as part of the LVD planning process and that the VAP site was a potential site for stormwater management.

Zina Raye asked about more planting on the VAP site and Chris Monahan responded that there were plans to provide additional planting on the VAP site. Zina also asked about the FCC oil recycling site and indicated that people complained about an odor of decomposing matter. Tom Giles from FCC Environmental provided his phone number and asked that people contact him if they had odor questions. Lalit reminded people to keep using the VAP hotline number as the first contact when making a complaint or reporting a problem.

John Irvine from VAP provided a handout and reported on the community events that VAP was involved in over the past year.

Mike Waite, a resident of Cameron Station, asked if VAP's Plant 2 had the same pollution control equipment as Plant 1. The answer was yes. He then stated that the use of SMA by VAP does not give them the right to violate their SUP – the odor is nauseating. On November 1, City staff went out and discussed that fans were blowing out blue smoke. He wants the City to respond.

Lalit Sharma reviewed the issues addressed in the City's November 11, 2008 letter to VAP. The issues included use of VAP's hotline, responsiveness to complaints and thoroughness of responses, and operational and maintenance issues. He indicated that the letter asked for VAP to respond in writing and to provide a plan of action to address the concerns expressed in the letter.

Geoff Goodale from Seminary Hills and Co-Chair of the Federation of Civic Associations asked whether the new stack tests required by VADEQ would open up the review process. Chris Monahan responded that he did not know if VADEQ would hold another hearing on the matter. Geoff said he liked the idea of using natural gas. He also asked about the letter identified as 3B in the appendix to the VADEQ hearings (letter of support from VAP Community Liaison Committee) and said he did not see the letter in the City's package. Lalit indicated that the City would make sure the letter was there.

Mike Waite asked if there was a difference in VOC's between SMA and other asphalt mixes. Denny Luzier from VAP said there is no data that he is aware of that indicates there is a difference. Bill Skrabak said the City will see if there is any data available on this. Bill also indicated that PM 2.5 is included in new stack tests per City requirements, not per VADEQ.

The Committee set the next meeting date for February 11, 2009 and adjourned