

Final Notes

July 10, 2007 Virginia Paving Liaison Committee Meeting
Samuel Tucker Elementary School
Reviewed at October 17, 2007 Liaison Committee Meeting

Attending:

Committee Members: John Porter, Wendy Albert, Dan Hoyt, Zina Raye, William Skrabak, Annabelle Fisher, Mindy Lyle, Carol Janees, Loretta Scott, Stephen Milone (for Rich Josephson).

Others: Carlos Martins, Robert Rodriguez, Agnes Artemel, Chris Monahan, John Irvine, Dennis Luzier, Joe Bennett, Art Impastato, Jordan Berliner, Maria Velez de Berliner.

John Porter kicked off the meeting at 7 PM and welcomed and introduced Loretta Scott, new Principal of the Samuel Tucker Elementary School, as a new Committee member. City DEQ staff Carlos Martins provided hard copies of the Comprehensive Inspection Report including inspection reports from various City agencies including reports of the 5/17 joint City staff inspection. The report also included a summary memo dated 15 June that was sent to the Mayor, Council and City Manager providing an update status for Virginia Paving production and compliance with the SUP conditions, as well as a synopsis of the citizen complaints received from January to June 2007. He provided a general verbal overview of the report findings, including that the production of 49 tons was low because only a single plant was in operation due. He confirmed that the PM10 monitoring station is set-up and operational at Samuel Tucker School. He also confirmed that the hotline was operational and that he had spoken with the Office of Citizen Assistance to ensure that staff receiving calls would be aware of the Virginia Paving case and prepared to handle the calls properly. He said that most of the complaints that he received related to petroleum odors. He also reported that he varies the time of day during which he conducts his inspection to be on site during times of varying conditions and production levels. He added that he has pro-actively driven around the surrounding neighborhoods to monitor the plant operations.

Dan Hoyt reported that between mid-August and mid-September their phase VI and phase VII improvements will begin. Carlos Martins added that the blue smoke technology will be in at that time. Dan reported that one third of the fleet of replacement trucks were at the body shop being outfitted and estimated that they would accept delivery in approximately four weeks. He reported that they had completed 85% of the Phase I landscaping and expected to begin the Phase II landscaping closer to Summers Grove by mid-August. He said that they intend to install the Phase III landscaping in the spring of 2008, but may try to install it earlier if feasible. He said that the Fire Department special response team had come to the site to tour the plant and to prepare themselves in case they might need to respond to a call at the plant. He said that Virginia Paving has also voluntarily invited other response teams to the plant to use as a training ground for response at industrial sites.

Annabelle Fischer stated that it was very important to keep the environment around the school in mind. She mentioned concerns regarding US Filter smells in the morning and noise at night.

Zina Raye said that she personally knew of two complaints of asphalt smell but that overall she was rather pleased with the ongoing operation and monitoring.

It was announced that a meeting had been scheduled for the following Thursday at 7:45 for Virginia Paving and City DEQ staff to meet with representatives of Norfolk Southern. One particular concern by the community has been idling of freight trains at night and moving of multi-modal containers throughout the night, particularly from 1 AM - 3 or 4 AM as reported to Mindy Lyle. Zina stated that she was interested in attending the Norfolk Southern meeting as well.

Carol Janee mentioned a Wall Street Journal article that reported that nighttime paving is becoming regular practice. She also noted the U.S. Conference of Mayors commitment to reduce particulate matter and suggested that Virginia Paving could be an example to share to reduce particulate matter. She asked what the Mayor's plans or intent are and if the improvements at Virginia Paving are in line with that. Bill Skrabak clarified that the Environmental Policy Committee is working with Virginia Tech to draft an Environmental Action Plan that will be divided into phases that inventory what we are presently doing and what we should do going forward in 10 to 20 or more years out in the future.

The committee then invited public comment.

Art Impastato stated that there was a fire in a Stafford plant operated by Virginia Paving. Dennis Luzier stated that the fire in Stafford did not involve the asphalt plant itself. He said that the fire occurred in an equipment facility due to a fault in a restroom exhaust fan.

Jordan Berliner pointed out the importance of addressing issues and problems in a systematic way and if they are having an outside review of their processes. Dan Hoyt reported that they are trying to look at correcting problems in a more comprehensive manner. He said recently they have added regular and more frequent inspections of equipment so that impending problems can be corrected before a part of a system fails. They are improving part of their regular practices. One such practice change is that they will now siphoning oil out of vehicles rather than permitting the oil to drain into pans, to again be transferred into another container. They are encouraging all employees to come up with ways to improve operations and offer \$50 gift certificate for the best idea of the week. Dan said that corporate safety inspects the plant once per quarter.

Joe Bennett asked about anticipated production levels for this year in comparison to previous years, and asked even if operation is proceeding within controls now, how will we know that the measures will work at maximum output. Dan estimated that production would be 3-4 % higher this year than in 2006, and anticipates production will remain flat

and steady. He mentioned that the Springfield interchange is completed but that the Telegraph Road intersection improvements will continue for 4 to 5 years. He added that the mitigation measures for the plant will function properly if production increases to the maximum levels allowed because the mitigation measures were designed to function at maximum capacity.

A question was raised regarding whether the Virginia Paving hotline is connected to Virginia Paving or to the City staff. Staff confirmed that the hotline goes to the plant. A committee member voiced concern that for tracking purposes hotline calls should come directly to the City. However, several other committee members and the group generally agreed that the hotline should go directly to the plant, where issues can be resolved most expeditiously. Staff said that from Virginia Paving's conduct so far, all complaints are being properly reported by the plant to the City, as evidenced in the complaint reports. Staff also advised that if a citizen had concern regarding tracking of a complaint, citizens should call the hotline to get corrective action, and then contact the City staff in the morning to ensure that the complaint is tracked and resolved.

Bob Rodriguez provided a summary of the Virginia Maintenance Code inspection that Code Enforcement conducted. He said that the results were very good for a plant the size of Virginia Paving and that there were only a few, easy to resolve issues, such as painting of walls, room ceiling tiles that had to be replaced, and the like. Dan Hoyt added that, though not serious issues, Virginia Paving appreciated the review and worked seriously to correct the issues.

The next meeting was scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, October 3, 2007 (and later changed to Wednesday October 17, 2007).