

CAP MEETING MINUTES
April 24, 2007
DSM Nutritional Products, Inc.
Belvidere, New Jersey

The DSM Community Advisory Panel met on April 24, 2007. Present at the meeting were Bud Allen, Chairman of the AirQAP; Belvidere resident Al Bennett; Warren County Planning Director Dave Dech, residents Bob & Sandy Goldberg; Bob Goltz, President of the Warren County Regional Chamber of Commerce; Hal Halvorsen, Chairman of the Belvidere Planning Board; Malcolm Leslie, White Township Environmental Commissioner; White Township resident Ernest Maso; Belvidere Town Councilwoman Marianne Meyer-Garcia; Belvidere resident Doug Smyth; and Tony Wyhopen, Chairman of the White Township Planning Board.

Present from DSM were Site Director Wim Vorage; Environmental, Health and Safety Director Jim Brandl; Linda Griest; and Alexander Cannon. Steve Ross facilitated the meeting.

Tour of Arachidonic Acid Production Facility

Alexander Cannon provided an overview and conducted a tour of the arachidonic acid (ARA) facility, where a key ingredient in infant formula is made using a state-of-the-art fermentation process. ARA is an omega 6 fatty acid found in mother's milk, and promotes neurological development. The U.S. is the largest market for this product.

DSM produces ARA using a strain of fungus, which is fed dextrose, water and air. After fermentation, the ARA is extracted from the fungus biomass using high-tech presses and converted to powder for sale to customers such as the manufacturer of Infamil. Water recovered from the process is recycled and reused, and fine residues are sent to DSM's on-site wastewater treatment plant. The sludge resulting from the production process is landfilled, though it is now being considered for use in a reclamation project if regulatory issues can be resolved.

The entire process is computer-controlled and carefully monitored. The ARA has self-heating properties and is stored in refrigerated trailers. Production equipment is equipped with an automated fire suppression system.

PCFA SEP

Bud Allen provided an overview of the Administrative Consent Order signed recently by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Pollution Control Financing Authority of Warren County (PCFA) to resolve odor and air emissions from PCFA's landfill. DSM has donated its air monitoring equipment to PCFA, which will use it to monitor sulfur dioxide and methane as part of a Supplemental Environmental Project approved by DEP. The monitoring results will be posted on PCFA's website. DSM's now-completed air monitoring program was the first SEP ever approved in New Jersey, as were two other related SEPs involving a study of the effects of air pollution on childhood asthma and the creation of the Warren-Northampton Regional Air Quality Advisory Panel (AirQAP).

DSM Business Update

Jim Brandl reported that DSM passed its ISO 9000 and ISO 14001 Quality and Environmental Certification audit. The plant will need to be recertified in three years.

Jim also reported on two environmental incidents that occurred at the site, one involving ethanol (which did not result in a release to the environment) and one involving emissions of vitamin C dust from a malfunction of a baghouse pollution control device.

Wim Vorage told the CAP that the company continues to study possible new activities at the Belvidere site, but that an ethanol production facility is unlikely to be one of those activities, though it continues to be evaluated.

Keeping the Community Informed

The CAP agreed that DSM should post approved summaries of CAP meetings on the CAP's website, and that approved meeting summaries should be mailed to key community stakeholders to keep them informed about the CAP's activities.

Topics for Next CAP Meeting

After considering several topics, the CAP agreed that the focus of the CAP meeting on June 19, 2007 should be emergency planning and preparedness at DSM's site. The August meeting should include a tour of the vitamin C blending facility and site security should be addressed at a future meeting as well.