

Viewpoints

Volume I, Issue II

2nd Quarter, 1999

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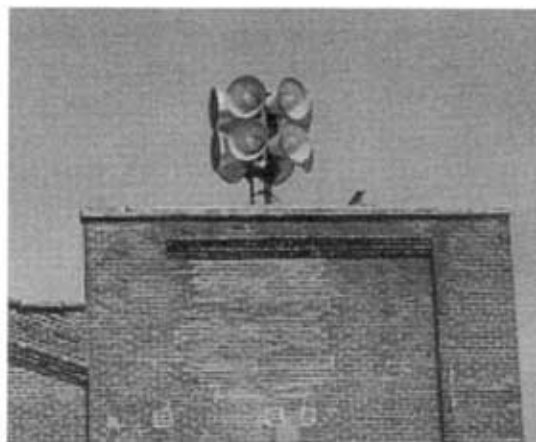
Editor's Note: This newsletter is the second in an intermittent series of articles compiled and published by the Community Advisory Panel. It is the express intent of the CAP to provide to the residents of Middleport credible information regarding community issues, plant activities, and environmental concerns such as the contamination and remediation of soils on the Royalton-Hartland school yard using material collected from school officials, the NY State Dept. of Health and other experts.

FMC EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

At 5:00 PM daily the FMC - Middleport plant siren sounds. This automated test is part of FMC's written emergency plan. Plant fire protection computer software was recently upgraded, and this daily one minute test is the standard procedure to confirm the siren's readiness.

The steady tone of the 5:00 siren test signifies "all clear". A pulsing tone indicates an in-plant emergency. A tone pattern of slow whoops indicates a Village alert. Should the plant siren broadcast slow whoops, residents are asked to immediately consult Lockport radio station WLVL, AM frequency 1340 for instructions.

The Middleport Fire Department and other Niagara County emergency responders have resources for alerting residents about any emergency by telephone. Activated from a central location, the Community Alert Network (CAN) system automatically places telephone calls to all homes and facilities in the vicinity of an emergency. The CAN system



The automated daily test of the FMC Middleport plant siren is an integral part of the facility's written emergency plan.

provides residents with oral instructions to respond to a specific hazardous situation.

The CAN system is ready for any major emergency, and the plant siren for a plant emergency. Both systems would be used in the event of a significant FMC incident.

RESOURCES ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

NYSDOH www.health.state.ny.us

NYSDEC www.dec.state.ny.us

USEPA www.epa.gov

Royalton-Hartland School District www.royhart.wnyric.org

FMC Corporation www.fmc.com



ROYALTON-HARTLAND SCHOOL YARD PROPOSED ARSENIC CONTAMINATED SOIL REMOVAL PROJECT

AIR MONITORING AND DUST SUPPRESSION

Prepared By
USEPA, NYSDEC & NYSDOH

The above governmental agencies were asked by the FMC-Middleport Community Advisory Panel (CAP) to provide a discussion on the topic of air monitoring and dust suppression for the proposed Royalton-Hartland Arsenic Contaminated Soil Removal Project. As outlined in FMC's Interim Corrective Measures (ICM) Work Plan for this project, air monitoring will be performed at all times, both at the work site and at the perimeter of the work zone, during contaminated soil excavation and removal activities. At each of these locations, air-monitoring equipment will be placed into operation to measure the concentration of dust particles in the air (1 unit upwind and 2 units downwind, at each location). In addition, the air will be sampled to determine if there are any detectable levels of arsenic in the dust.

"Continued cooperation is crucial because this is a sizable undertaking which must be finished before school resumes in September."

- Stu Throop

According to FMC's ICM Work Plan, dust suppression will be employed during soil handling activities. If the concentration of dust particles in the air, downwind of the work site is greater than 100 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) above that of the upwind concentration, additional dust suppression techniques will be implemented. These include applying water to wet down the work site and haul route. In addition, if the concentration of dust particles in the air, downwind of the work zone is greater than 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ above that of the upwind concentration, work will be suspended until the situation can be corrected. Readings will be based on 15 minute average concentrations.

An Agencies' representative will be present during soil removal activities to verify that air monitoring and dust suppression activities are conducted in accordance with FMC's ICM Work Plan. The Agencies' representative may also request additional dust suppression based on visual observation of the work zone.

For further information you may contact:



Michael Infurna, USEPA (212) 637-4177;

Matt Mortefolio, NYSDEC (518) 457-9253; or

Michael Rivara, NYSDOH (518) 458-6306



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**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE PROJECT,
FMC WANTS TO HEAR FROM
YOU.**

**PLEASE CALL PATT FAGAN AT
735-3761 ext. 289**

**OR BOB WOJCIK AT
735-3761 ext. 202**

VIEWPOINTS:

“WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE CLEAN-UP?”

FMC Corporation

By Stu Throop
Middleport Plant Manager

A few short weeks from now, FMC personnel will initiate the Interim Corrective Measure (ICM) at the Royalton-Hartland Central School, Middleport, NY. This project will replace contaminated soils from a portion of the Southeast corner of the school yard, including the school bus parking lot, football field, track and bleachers.

FMC has planned the project over the past nine months and will carry it out in cooperation with the US Environmental Protection Agency, the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Department of Health and the Roy - Hart School District. Continued cooperation is crucial because this is a sizable undertaking which must be finished before school resumes in September.

I have four observations about the project to share:

First, the planning process has been directed at removing arsenic contaminated soil in the ICM area identified by the Agencies. The exact location of these soils has been confirmed through recent, additional soil sampling and analysis. The area to be excavated this summer is expanded beyond the area initially requested by the Agencies.

Second, implementation will not compromise health and safety. The school yard construction area will be fenced, with manned security. Our contractors will follow a written safety policy and procedures plan. Haul routes will bypass the village. Plans to control dust will feature electronic air monitoring to indicate when dust suppression measures are needed.

Third, the new sports complex will upgrade the overall safety of the school yard facilities.

Roy-Hart Schools

By Paul J. Bona, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

We have been successful in locating interim solutions for the groups who use school facilities for spring and summer programs. We have opportunities now for improvements in our community's education facilities, both inside and out, at our Middleport and Gasport Campuses. This is not to imply that we sacrificed any part of the spring and summer programming. Fortunately, almost everyone views the situation in a similar way, and has been reasonable about the temporary inconveniences.

We are grateful for the flexibility shown by our students and their families, District teachers and administrators, our Roy-Hart Sports Boosters, the community sports organizations and the companies implementing the projects. One and all are interested in the success of our spring-summer programs, and efficient completion of the soil replacement, athletic facilities projects and school facilities projects.

I took a very firm position when first approached by the US Environmental Protection Agency, NY Department of Environmental Conservation and NY Department of Health, regarding an environmental project on our school yard. It is critical that we never deviate from the health and safety of the students as our Job One. I told the Agencies and FMC they could expect the full cooperation of Royalton-Hartland Central Schools, provided classes are not in session when the excavation occurs. It makes no sense to expose our students to the potential construction hazards, much less to expose them to the problem soils which are now covered by turf. The planning has upheld this position, and I consider this one of our best decisions this academic year.

Consistent with our position from the start, there will be no Middleport school yard soil excavation until after graduation. Beginning June 1, the press box and scoreboard will be dismantled.

"We are grateful for the flexibility shown by our students and their families, District teachers and administrators, our Roy-Hart Sports Boosters, the community sports organizations and the companies implementing the projects."

- Paul J. Bona, Jr.

Viewpoints

A Publication of the Middleport
Community Advisory Panel

Occupant

“WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE CLEAN-UP?” *(continued from page 3)*

FMC Corporation

ties. The new football field and all -weather track will be permanently fenced. New equipment and facilities will satisfy up-to-date codes and standards.

Fourth, FMC Middleport's current business operates with very little environmental impact. Ongoing manufacturing activities, consisting exclusively of mixing and packaging processes, are not contributing to future environmental cleanups.

FMC will step up communications to the community, as this project unfolds. Patt Fagan, a Middleport resident and recent addition to our staff, will serve as our Community Liason contact. We will publicize details on how to contact us with questions or concerns, and provide timely information on how the project is advancing. Please do not hesitate to contact Patt, Technical Services Manager Bob Wojcik or me as needs arise.

We are aiming to provide the community with benefits that will outweigh the inconveniences caused by the project.

Roy-Hart Schools

for their move to Gasport, bleachers and lights will be removed, fencing will be installed and contractor equipment will be set up. The contractors will not, however, begin digging. These activities will not interfere with ongoing sports programs in June, including the community baseball league's schedule.

As we brought Roy-Hart's needs to the forefront in planning these projects, the parties have found sensible solutions to problems. For instance, the new sports facilities at Gasport began with the problem of relocating our '99 home season. Out of such challenges came unexpected opportunities. A new youth football league called LOYAL for girls and boys ages 7-14 will find its home at Gasport in the fall of this year. We will also have lighted baseball and soccer fields there, for possible, future evening events.

I believe that the planning and attention invested in these projects will serve district residents well. As the time approaches for the projects to begin, we look forward to the resulting benefits.