

Our Mission: It is the express intent of the FMC Middleport Community Advisory Panel (CAP) to provide residents of Middleport credible information regarding community issues, environmental concerns, and FMC plant activities.



Viewpoints

FALL 2009

Niagara County Emergency Coordinator Updates the Middleport CAP

By Dan Dodge, CAP member

At the June CAP meeting, the members were treated to a visit from Niagara County Director of Emergency Services and Fire Coordinator, James Volkosh. Jim is a lifelong Middleport resident and has served on the Middleport Volunteer Fire Department for many years.



He is no stranger to the FMC plant, as he has been here many times in the past as an instructor and with his work with the fire brigade.

Jim spoke about how the tragic events

surrounding 9/11 changed the entire structure of emergency planning, and how they suddenly had a whole new area of concerns to prepare for. It meant having to conduct further study about epidemiology, weaponry, and chemicals.

At the time of the June meeting, Swine flu, or the H1N1 virus, was at the top of the news each day. We learned from Jim that the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was stockpiling antibiotics and supplies. Their goal is to be able to inoculate the entire county of Niagara's population of 225 thousand people in 7 days.

The LEPC is made up of twenty member groups which represent the community, government, and industry, and they use everyone's expertise to make the county safer.

The LEPC watches over the activities of companies that store, use, or transport hazardous chemicals in the community. There

THE MIDDLEPORT CAP MEMBERS

Dee Collins
Paul L. Collins
Dan Dodge
Richard Owen
Sandie Owen
Dick Westcott
Bryan Wollenberg

Ann Howard - Facilitator
Andy Twarowski - FMC Plant Manager
Glen Wilson - Formulations Team Leader
Debra Overkamp - FMC Community Liaison
Bob Wojcik - FMC Environmental Manager
Mike Hinton - NYS DEC Representative

Coordinator Updates CAP ...continued

are around 140 companies in Niagara County reporting chemical inventories to the LEPC.

We learned from Jim that one of the LEPC's areas of concern is prescription drug disposal. Too many unused prescription drugs find their way into the local waterways from people disposing them down drains or flushing them down toilets. There are drop-off sites for their proper disposal available, and Jim as well as his staff are available at 438-3171, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for information.

The CAP would like to thank Jim for taking the time out of his busy schedule to come and inform us about the important information on the inner workings of the county's Emergency Services.



CAP Members Tour Plant at June Meeting

By Dick Owen, CAP member

The plant tour the CAP saw on June 3 was interesting and informative. CAP members and some community residents were led through the areas where products were mixed and packaged and then checked for quality. Plant Manager, Andy Twarowski, and the other well-qualified personnel did an excellent job explaining what goes on at the plant and answering questions.

Robert Wojcik, Environmental Manager, started us off at the lab where he told us about the work done there and how it is where they test for the quality, consistency, cross-contam-

ination and to check on concentration levels for the products formulated in Middleport.

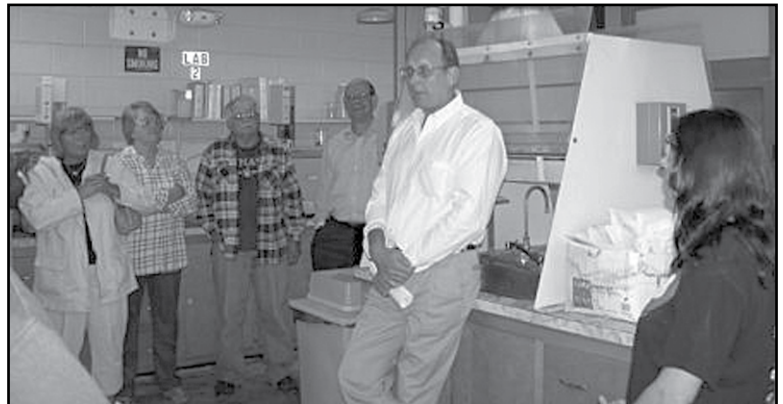


Plant Manager Andy Twarowski explains what some of the areas outside the plant buildings are used for.

Before entering the main part of the plant, Andy Twarowski showed us an area for bulk storage tanks that will make handling materials more efficient and will cut costs. In this same vicinity, Andy showed us an air treatment system where air was filtered to remove contaminants, dust particulate and vapors.

Once inside the plant, John Burinsky, FMC Formulation Area Leader, explained how an herbicide called Command is mixed and packaged.

Glen Wilson told us that this formulation of Command is a unique product because it is made using a new technology that encapsulates the



Environmental Manager Bob Wojcik showed what equipment was in the lab and how it is used in quality control.

CAP Members Tour Plant at June Meeting

...continued

active ingredient so that it only activates once it is in the ground, thereby eliminating any unintentional use or exposure.



Inside the plant, John Burinsky had samples of the many different sized containers for some of the products being mixed and packaged at the plant.

We then proceeded to the part of the plant where various insecticides are mixed and packaged. A couple of these products are Transport and Brigade.

John explained how with some of the special packaging, the customer will mix the products to use on their crops by adding the bag of products that dissolves into the water he is mixing it with. That way, the chemical active ingredient never comes into human contact.

Talstar is another insecticide that Glen told us about that has a very broad spectrum of usage. It has been quite successful and is a product that is very competitive with similar products made by other companies.

Andy showed us a new resource center where computer-based training can be done. We also saw places where the packaging process

was being updated so that the work done there was more ergonomically safe.

Andy also explained about some new products that came from Jacksonville, Florida plant that will now be formulated in Middleport. In addition to that, he showed us where some new lighting was going to be installed in the near future that would be a cost-savings for the plant as the new lights would perform better and use less energy.

At the conclusion of the tour, I definitely was left with the impression that FMC plant is looking out for the best interests of their employees and for the people of the Middleport community.



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Meet Barry Downes - FMC Health and Safety Manager

By Paul Collins, CAP member

This June, the CAP was introduced to Barry Downes, FMC Health and Safety Manager. I was very impressed with Barry and the safety program at FMC.

Barry has more than 15 years of experience in his field. He is married and has two children. He is responsible not only for safety here at Middleport, but throughout the company.

Safety is "JOB ONE" at FMC. The plant just completed a safety meeting and all 57 employees attended. Everyone from the plant manager to the newest employees were involved.

Some subjects covered were: responsibility (everyone at the plant is responsible), housekeep-

ing, how all employees are involved, hazard recognition and corrective action, lock-out/tag out procedures for safely fixing and cleaning machinery

As a very close neighbor (I live right behind the plant) it was reassuring to know that safety is such a priority at FMC.



Barry Downes lives in Pennsylvania and is in Middleport two weeks each month to oversee the plant's safety programs.