

ORICA AMMONIA PLANT START UP COMMITTEE

Minutes: Meeting 5, 3 November 2011.

Venue: Government Offices 117 Bull Street, Newcastle, NSW

Attendees:

Chair- Greg Sullivan Deputy Chief Environmental Regulator EPA
Craig Dalton - Hunter New England Health
Trevor Shiels - NSW Police
John Grailton – NSW Police
Adam Gilligan - Compliance Services Manager Newcastle City Council
Laurence Richey - Team Manager WorkCover
Dave Chamings - WorkCover
Stuart Harvey - Major Hazard Facilities Team - Fire and Rescue NSW
Stephen Davis - Fire and Rescue NSW
Lilia Donkova - Technical Specialist Department of Planning and Infrastructure
Gary Davey - Director North East Branch EPA
Grahame Clarke – Regional Manager EPA

Apologies:

Wayne Humphrey - NSW Police
Paul Minett – Port Stephens Council

Invitees:

Sean Winstone – Sustainability Manager – Australia/Asia Orica

Item 1: Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.05am and welcomed the members of the Committee. The representative from Orica was also welcomed. Apologies were noted.

Item 2: Previous Meeting Minutes and Actions

The draft minutes of meeting 4 confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting, with one amendment to attendees (Dave Chamings was present). The Chair provided an overview of where the Start-Up Committee's actions are up to and where to from here.

The Chair also advised the Committee that Dr Wayne Davies had been appointed as the EPA's independent expert. Dr Davies will be charged with reviewing documentation from Orica and providing expert advice to the Committee. It is not Dr Davies task to re-do the data analyses being undertaken by Orica's experts. Rather, it is to provide advice that appropriate approaches, procedures and processes had been applied.

Dr Davies joined the meeting briefly via telephone where he provided Committee member with an overview of his experience and CV. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of Dr Davies.

Dr Davies outlined his expectations of Orica in terms of work/training undertaken. He outlined the importance of HazOps for new start-up procedures and the need for a director or controller of the start-up.

Action: It was agreed that Dr Davies would attend the next Start-Up Committee meeting.

Item 3 Agency Updates

All agencies provided a brief update on actions, if any, since the last meeting. The Chair updated the Committee on progress from EPA's perspective. Mr Winstone was invited to join the meeting and provide an overview of

Item 4: Orica Update

Mr Winstone was invited to join the meeting for this item. He provided an overview of the progress that Orica was making towards addressing all the items in the verification matrix. To assist, Mr Winstone provided a power point presentation.

Mr Winstone noted:

- The test firing of the gas furnace had been undertaken successfully. The next stage is final testing.
- Orica had appointed an independent auditor who was reviewing the work done to date.
- All modifications to the ammonia plant had been completed and assessed by Orica's independent engineer as being built as designed (report being drafted).
- Stack taken down and removed offsite for cleaning. The process is to be completed the following week and the stack re-installed.
- Emergency planning and training had commenced. Committee members sought additional information on these aspects.
- Hazard studies had been done, start-up procedures were being drafted. The Chair noted the importance of a start-up check list, need for a start-up director, ensuring that the use of nitrogen as the heating medium has been Hazop'd

Actions:

- NSW Police and Fire and Rescue NSW to review training modules and contents and report back to the committee.
- Committee to seek information from Orica on its hazard assessment processes.
- Orica to ensure the start-up procedure included a stop/go facility and was overseen by a controller or director.

Item 5: Review of Verification Matrix Actions.

5.1 Items 1.3 – 1.10

The Committee noted that items 1.3 to 1.10 were largely completed. The committee was now waiting on the independent auditor's report on these actions. This would be supplied by Orica shortly. And then would be reviewed, as needed, by the EPA's independent expert.

Fire and Rescue NSW reported to the committee that the emergency planning test had been undertaken satisfactorily and could be recorded as "complete" in the verification matrix. Work Cover noted it was satisfied with the plan.

There was discussion in relation to the hazard assessment procedures and the differentiation between hazard testing and HazOps. It was agreed that the Committee would write to Orica seeking further advice.

Actions:

- DP&I and WorkCover to draft a letter on behalf of the Committee seeking advice on standards and specifications on hazard assessment and HazOps.
- WorkCover, Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW Police to report back to the Committee with a review of the emergency [plan and training packages.

Item 6: Emergency Planning Exercise

The importance of a longer term emergency planning process for the broader area was discussed. Emergency service and Newcastle City Council are committed to this, but it will be delivered in early 2012. It was agreed that it was not critical to the considerations as to whether the ammonia plant should re-open or not.

Item 7: General Business

DP&I noted that it had received an application from Incitec for an expansion of its facilities on Kooragang Island. DP&I would be seeking input from other government agencies for DGR's for the EIA for the proposal.

Item 8: Next meeting

Next meeting: 1000 – 1230 hrs, 15 November 2011, Government Office Building, Bull Street, Newcastle.

The Chair thanked all committee members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

