

ORICA AMMONIA PLANT START UP COMMITTEE

Minutes: Meeting 3, 27 September 2011.

Venue: Stockton RSL club meeting room, 29 Douglas Street Stockton.

Attendees:

Chair - Gary Davey - Director North East Branch OEH
Greg Sullivan - Deputy Chief Executive OEH (late arrival)
Grahame Clarke - Regional Manager Hunter OEH
Tony Merritt for Craig Dalton - Hunter New England Health
Trevor Shields - NSW Police
Wayne Humphrey - NSW Police
Adam Gilligan - Compliance Services Manager Newcastle City Council
Laurence Richey - Team Manager WorkCover
Bruce Marshall - WorkCover
Paul Minett - Coordinator Environmental Health – Port Stephens Council
Stuart Harvey - Major Hazard Facilities Team - Fire and Rescue NSW
Stephen Davis - Fire and Rescue NSW
Paul Bailey - Fire and Rescue NSW
Lilia Donkova - Technical Specialist Department of Planning and Infrastructure
Falicity Greenaway - Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Apologies:

Nil

Invitees:

Sean Winstone – Sustainability Manager – Australia/Asia Orica

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Committee. The representative from Orica was also welcomed.

Item 2: Previous Meeting Minutes and Actions

The draft minutes of Meeting 2 to be amended to record the attendance of Lilia Donkova - Technical Specialist Department of Planning and Infrastructure. The remainder of the minutes confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Item 3: Agency updates

Hunter New England Health advised that the full health risk assessment is accessible on the NSW website <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news>. NSW Health also contributed to the Brendan O'Reilly report.

WorkCover advised that 32 Notices have been served on Orica to provide a range of information and documents to assist WorkCover's investigation of the incident.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure reported that the agency has provided advice to Orica on the requirements of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

Fire and Rescue NSW and WorkCover advised that a meeting was held with Orica on 20 September 2011 to work through the company's Emergency Management Plan.

OEH advised that a number of its staff were assisting with the Brendan O'Reilly investigation.

NSW Police commented that they are considering running an emergency plan/DISPLAN exercise, in consultation with NSW Fire and Rescue, to restore community confidence in the NSW Government's emergency response capabilities.

Newcastle City Council commented that some useful information is available from the 2007 Stockton emergency services exercise.

Action: NSW Police, in consultation with Fire and Rescue NSW and other agencies to develop an appropriate desktop exercise, to assess the agencies preparedness for and run an emergency plan/DISPLAN desk-top exercise.

Item 4: Orica work updates

4.1 Orica advised that 'Practical Completion' of the clean-up of Stockton properties was achieved by 23 September 2011, the date specified in the Clean-Up Notice issued by OEH. Orica has not been able to contact some property owners and negotiations on the scope of the clean-up are being negotiated with one landowner. The offer to assess and cleanup residential properties will remain open until the end of October 2011.

Action: Orica to provide formal advice that it believes the matter has been completed for the Committee's consideration.

4.2 Orica advised that cleaning of the plant about 70% completed. Contaminated materials including stormwater with low level chromium is being transported off site to Lidcombe for treatment.

Orica may require live steam to clean the inside of the SP-8 vent system. Alternatives such as aqua blasting being considered but the height of the stack (80 metres) may prohibit alternatives to live steam being used.

Action: Orica to submit the 'steam injection/cleaning program' to committee members for review.

4.3 Orica reported back on the Stockton community meetings held on 15 September 2011. An overview of the issues raised at these meetings was circulated to committee members for information.

4.4 Orica reported that the operation procedures for the modifications being made to the ammonia plant are being rewritten. Once this work is complete staff training will commence.

4.5 The committee endorsed the format and content of the Orica Ammonia Plant Start-Up Committee verification matrix.

Item 5: General Business

There were two items of general business:

1. OEH circulated a power point presentation that the Committee Chair would present to the community at the meeting scheduled for 6.30pm. The presentation would provide a brief overview of the role and terms of reference of the Orica Start-Up Committee to be followed by a panel session with all agencies available to respond to questions from the community.
2. Hunter New England Health commented that without the specific web address information on the Start -Up Committee can be difficult to locate on OEH's website.

Action: OEH to review/improve website access to the Start Up committee page.

Item 6:

Next meeting: 10:00 – 11:30 hrs, 14 October 2011, Government Office Building, Bull Street, Newcastle.

The Chair thanked all committee members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 18.00hrs.

