

**Minutes of the Chevron Burnaby Refinery  
Community Advisory Panel Meeting  
Wednesday, November 20, 2013**

**7 – 9 pm at the Confederation Seniors Centre**

**PRESENT**

Al Mytkowicz, Pat Connell, Maziar Kazemi, Rob Firkins, Ian Lacoursiere, Kathy Mezei, Art Quan,

**Chevron representatives:**

Steve Parker, Chevron, Refinery Manager, Jill Donnelly, Health Environment & Safety Manager; Jorge Marcó, Public & Govt. Affairs Manager; Ray Lord, Communications Manager, Chevron Kitimat LNG

**Metro Vancouver Representatives:**

Larry Avanthay, Regulatory Representative, Metro Vancouver  
Darrell Wakelin, Regulatory Representative, Metro Vancouver

**Facilitator:**

Catherine Rockandel, Rockandel & Associates

**Regrets:**

Rob Maclean, Eileen Luongo, Kathy Curran (maternity leave)

**Guests:**

Fraser Health representatives: Gord Stewart, Manager, Environmental Health Services; Dr. Lawrence Loh, Medical Health Officer; Dr. Goran Krstic, Human Health Risk Assessment Specialist. Metro Vancouver: Geoff Doerksen, Air Quality Planner; Ken Reid, Superintendent Environmental Sampling and Monitoring; Kathy Preston, ERE Senior Engineer

**CAP BUSINESS**

**1. Opening Remarks**

- Catherine Rockandel welcomed CAP members, the public, and guests from Fraser Health, Metro Vancouver, and Chevron management. She provided an overview of the agenda and invited CAP members and guests to introduce themselves.
- Departing refinery Public & Govt. Affairs mgr. Ray Lord provided an introduction to the Chevron Burnaby Refinery's new Public & Govt. Affairs Manager, Jorge Marcó. Jorge provided a short background on his experience with Chevron.

## 2. Chevron Updates

### a. **General Refinery Operations – Steve Parker, Refinery Manager**

- Steve reported that Chevron had a maintenance turn-around originally scheduled for October but has decided to defer it to February 2014. The extended time reflects the good condition of the plant's equipment and will allow for optimal planning and preparation for this work, Chevron takes shutdowns very seriously and utilizes industry best practices across the system to ensure safe, on time and on budget shutdowns.
- On Sept 27 we did experience an event that had impact on the community. The level of product in a tank in our Area 1 tank field dropped lower than expected and exposed the heat coil. This resulted in the generation of some odorous vapours. We want to apologize to those nearby residents who experienced these odours. Anytime we have events we investigate them thoroughly and put measures in place to prevent recurrence.
- On October 14<sup>th</sup> there was a flare event. The community would have noticed elevated flaring for several hours in the late afternoon and into the evening. This is the fifth refinery where I have been a General Manager. I have managed refineries in Australia, Malaysia, Africa, the US, and now here in Canada and all refineries have flare systems that are critical safety devices. One of our operators noticed a pinhole, or very tiny leak in some piping that needed to be addressed. We shut down the unit to look for corrosion. The high flare was related to preparing to bring the unit off-line prior to doing the necessary work. As it turned out it was a very localized point of corrosion that we were able to quickly repair. We certainly regret the flare noise levels that were experienced by several neighbours on Capitol Hill and sincerely apologize for any disturbance this may have created.
- There has been a lot of news about crude by rail lately as there was a CN recent derailment just east of Edmonton involving several crude tank cars – none of which ruptured during the incident. I would be pleased to answer any questions people may have about crude oil being transported over rail systems in North America.
- As many of you know there was a recent Greenpeace protest at Kinder Morgan's Westridge Terminal here in Burnaby. After reviewing that event, we have taken steps to enhance security at the refinery in order to ensure the safety of our facilities, our personnel and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Comments and questions about Refinery Operations:

**C1:** The incident in October sounded like a jet plane. We were quite scared so we called the plant. The supervisor on site called back right away to explain what was going on. We really appreciated how quickly he responded. I wonder if it would be a good idea to put an explanation on the CAP website about the incident?

### **3. Metro Vancouver Update - Larry Avanthay**

- An overview was provided of Metro Vancouver's role as the authority for regulating air discharges and liquid waste discharges to sanitary sewer in the region. The Chevron facility has permits for both their air emissions and sewer discharges. Typically at CAP an update of our activities since the previous meeting is provided, which includes inspections, a review of air quality complaints, odour surveys, as well as responses to any specific air quality incidents or episodes related to the facility. It was also noted that presentations have been conducted in the past of the terms and conditions of the Chevron permits and our typical complaint response protocols. In addition,–we do not advise Chevron of what we plan to report out on at the CAP meetings.
- In September there were a total of 13 air quality complaints all relating to the Tank 69 incident reported previously. To date, Metro Vancouver has received 57 complaints in 2013 compared to 77 complaints during 2012. An Odor survey was conducted on Sept 13<sup>th</sup> as follow-up to complaints registered on Eton Street. Metro Vancouver also conducted odor surveys on Sept 27 and 28 as part of the investigation to the Tank 69 incident.
- There was also site inspection conducted on September 26<sup>th</sup> to review operating conditions as part of emission testing of a refinery unit.
- Finally on October 24<sup>th</sup> we conducted a measurement of visible emissions (opacity) of the catalytic cracker unit to confirm compliance with the permit opacity restriction.

### **4. 2013 CAP Review - Catherine Rockandel (see Attachment 1)**

- Four regular meetings were held in 2013 including the public meeting in November
- 10 community members currently serve on the CAP
- Minutes of our meetings are posted on the CAP website.
- The 2012 Neighbourhood meeting CAP agenda planning session generated a number of topics for discussion in 2013. At the February 2013 meeting, CAP reviewed that list of suggested topics and decided that the site contamination monitoring, the Area 2 seep, corrosion safety protocols and odor management were all part of regular CAP meeting discussions.
- CAP reviewed the suggestion to form more subcommittees to work collaboratively on specific issues and decided to develop an Emergency Notification Sub-Committee.
- CAP member Art Quan reported on the sub-committee's work. Chevron and CAP have worked for a number of years to have an emergency notification system to notify neighbours in the event of a major plant emergency. In May 2013 the CAP sub-committee delivered a presentation to Burnaby City council. City council referred the matter to Staff for further analysis. In June of 2013 the City's Finance committee went back to council offering \$25,000 to hire a consultant to formally review the matter. The City of Burnaby's Emergency Response

Coordinator has developed a response to the issue and will be presenting to the Finance committee next week.

- The other topics suggested at the 2012 public meeting were security and an update on the potential health risks of living near a refinery. The May 2013 CAP meeting focused on security. Mike Ward, Emergency Response, Safety and Security Lead, presented a detailed overview on Chevron's security systems, facility surveillance, what Chevron considers threats to security, tank protection, and protocols for dealing with issues if they arise.
- The September 2013 meeting focused on a review/update of the 2002 UBC Health study pertaining to the potential for any risks to living near a refinery. CAP took the lead and invited Fraser Health and Metro Vancouver to present a comprehensive presentation that is available on the web site. An abbreviated version of this presentation is being delivered here this evening.

## **5. Special Presentation (see Attachment 2)**

### **a. Metro Vancouver and Fraser Health Presentation**

- Darrell Wakelin, Regulatory Representative, Metro Vancouver provided context regarding the 2002 UBC Health Study and summarizing the presenters' understanding of CAP's request for updated information since that study and any changes in potential health impacts of living near the refinery. He also referenced the more in-depth presentation delivered at the September meeting available on the CAP website. The public meeting presentation would be a shorter version focusing specifically on sulphur dioxide and specific health impacts that CAP had suggested would be of interest to members of the public.
- Metro Vancouver's Geoff Doerksen, Air Quality Planner, discussed the existing air quality monitoring network and data collection for sulphur dioxide reporting.
- Dr. Lawrence Loh, Medical Health Officer, and Dr. Goran Krstic, Human Health Risk Assessment Specialist, discussed the potential health risks and effects of sulphur dioxide.
- Metro Vancouver also shared the 2013 "Caring for the Air" Report and sources for real time data and routine reports. The links are listed in the presentation attached to the September meeting minutes.

Questions about the presentation included:

**Q1:** In your presentation you noted exceedances on Capitol Hill in 2012. What was going on in 2012 and why was the public not notified to stay indoors?

**A1:** The SO<sub>2</sub> exceedances were for the ten-minute averages which is only a World Health Organization (WHO) Guideline not a regional or federal objective. The air quality notifications you refer to are issued when objectives have or are expected to be exceeded.

Metro Vancouver confirmed that a number of the exceedances did trigger a SO<sub>x</sub> Curtailment Event (SCE), which is a requirement defined in the Chevron air discharge permit. Chevron had initiated action when SO<sub>x</sub> emissions reached

the WHO 10 minute Guideline at nearby ambient air monitoring stations, which was to reduce emissions from the major SO<sub>x</sub> source at their facility.

**Q2:** I called Metro Vancouver to ask what does SO<sub>2</sub> smell like. I was told it was a petroleum smell but I hear you saying it doesn't have a smell. Does the province or WHO have the impacts of SO<sub>2</sub> on lactating women, pregnant women or children?

**A2:** SO<sub>2</sub> is a colourless gas but does have a pungent odour often described as having a similar odour to a just struck match. All of the populations you mention are vulnerable however specific research on these particular groups has not been done and likely would never be conducted. The health impact finding discussed in the presentation would also include these particular groups.

## **6. Facilitated Q &A**

**Q1:** I live in the neighbourhood and have noticed a smell like sour gas coming from manholes. Is it H<sub>2</sub>S? The fire department has attended this location in the past and have conducted testing. They reported that the City of Burnaby is aware of this issue but it has yet to be resolved.

**A1:** Metro Vancouver advised they had conducted dye studies a few years ago in response to complaints and the results indicated the water from the catch basin discharges to the ditch along the north side of Penzance Drive which ultimately discharges to the storm sewer. Chevron does not discharge to this system, which would ultimately be the responsibility of the City of Burnaby. The odours from this area witnessed in the past would be best described as a septic odour similar to an area with standing water. It was recommended that the City of Burnaby be contacted; however, the Metro Vancouver air quality complaint line can also be contacted for follow-up.

**Q2:** Should there be a sign posting telephone numbers of where to call in the park and at the beginning of trails.

**A2:** There is one sign posted at the main trail entrance. Metro Vancouver advised they do not want to be viewed as soliciting complaints by posting the complaint number in the area. It was noted that the public does not appear to have a problem reaching the responsible agency as all major public agencies (i.e. FortisBC, City of Burnaby, Burnaby Fire Dept, etc.) are aware of our responsibility in managing air quality and will provide the caller our number and/or call us directly with a referral. It was also noted that the air quality complaint line number appears in the phone book, as well as the Chevron Neighborhood newsletter.

**C3:** A CAP member stated that when they first moved to community they noticed this particular odor in that area as well. It did not seem to be related to the refinery as they believe it is more related to the City of Burnaby's past use of the area for dumping harmless leaf accumulations from local streets and other storm sewer debris.

## **7. 2014 CAP Topic Planning**

The following topics were suggested for 2014 - beyond the usual topics:

- Crude by Rail: structure, process safety
- "Refining 101"
- CAP committee initiative to encourage more City of Burnaby and possibly Fire Department participation in CAP from time to time
- Noise mitigation: planning and engineering

### **NEXT MEETING:**

TBC

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm followed by a mix and mingle of the CAP members local residents, Chevron staff and guests.