

Minutes:
Neighborhood Advisory Committee
Oct. 19, 2012

NAC Members Present: NEDC: Aubrey Baldwin; NWDA Sharon Genasci and Bob Amundson; NCA: Tom Giese and Mary Peveto.

Not Present: Jorjan Parker, NWDA

ESCO Representatives: Fran Erickson, Carter Webb

Other Attendees: Kelley Egre, Jonathan Nelson, Shannon Huggins, Allan Classen, Kathy Sharp, Carmen Merlo and John Krallman

Meeting called to order 9:05 a.m.

The meeting started with a presentation by Carmen Merlo, Director of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Management. Merlo demonstrated the city's reverse 9-1-1 notification system.

Merlo started by clarifying the system is not intended for issues like leaf cleaning or a missing child. The system is designed for large scale emergencies that require residents to evacuate or seek shelter in place. The notifications are made one of three ways: text, email or voice mail.

A citywide test earlier in the year made it clear that text is the best method to alert a large number of people quickly. This method, however, presents a hurdle to reach people who don't text or use older mobile phones that don't have the technology required for a reverse 9-1-1 system.

Merlo said that new technology is being developed that wouldn't require citizens to register for the reverse system, which is now the case. The new technology would send a notification that would automatically send a message to any mobile phone in the designated area.

Merlo said the city's reverse system already has published and unpublished land-line phone numbers in the city and Multnomah County and phone numbers of Comcast subscribers that use the cable company's phone service. Phone numbers through other cable providers or VoiP users, as well as cell phone numbers are not automatically in the system. Those users need to register with the system.

The address connected with the phone number and registered with the system determines who gets notified. For example, flooding in Johnson Creek sends notifications only to residents with addresses registered in the affected area. The system allows for very precise targeting of where notifications are sent. This could mean

your side of a street could get notified, but your neighbors across the street wouldn't be notified.

Baldwin asked who triggers a notification request.

Merlo explained that police or fire agencies typically trigger the notification system. To demonstrate how the system works, Merlo typed in the address of the Friendly House. A map of the areas was populated with more than 3,500 blue dots within the half-mile radius that was chosen for the demonstration. Each dot represented a phone number that was registered with the system. The operator is able to select the method to use for notification: text, email or voice mail.

Peveto asked who determines the size of the notification area.

Merlo said the notification area depends on the incident and guidance from the on-scene commander. A recent hostage situation required a one-block radius. A hazardous material spill would be much larger.

Genasci wanted to know how it's decided whether to evacuate or seek shelter in place.

Shelter is advised when it's safer inside rather than outside. A reason to evacuate would be something like a hurricane, which doesn't occur in Portland.

The system was used a couple of months ago to notify Southwest residents to boil water.

Texts and emails can be distributed within 10 minutes. Voice mail takes 20 minutes to 2 hours and is limited to 30 seconds and by the number of phone lines available. People are urged to register using a text enabled phone.

Peveto wanted to know who supplies the real-time wind data.

Real-time wind data is provided by on-scene commanders.

Amundson wanted to know if it's possible to determine how a plume is going to be dispersed.

Merlo said attempting to model plume dispersion is difficult because of the time sensitive nature of notifications. Operators are conservative and over notify rather than under notify.

Baldwin said the reason behind the presentation is to help the NAC work through several matters in the GNA, including emergency management and reverse 9-1-1 services that could be used with a commercial operation like ESCO. She asked if the system had ever been used in connection with ESCO. Webb said it hadn't.

Genasci wondered why there was no notification on Sept. 29 when an incident at ESCO resulted in a fire truck being dispatched to the company. Egre said the incident involved an injury to a worker and not air emission issues.

Merlo said the reverse 9-1-1 system is triggered when emergency management officials need residents to do something: evacuate or shelter where they are. She said a second notification is sent when the incident has been resolved.

Registration can be done by going to www.publicalerts.org.

Approve minutes from 8-3-12 meeting

Giese moved to accept the minutes from the Aug. 3, 2012 meeting. The board voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Review of communications with ESCO since last meeting

Meeting minutes were sent to NAC members and each member's email address was added to the NAC email distribution list.

Review of Air Permit communications with DEQ since last meeting

Webb notified the board that ESCO has eight formal pieces of communication with DEQ since the last NAC meeting: Three of the letters involved administrative amendments related to the Title V permit, three related to construction and two involved deviations of the company's air permit.

The first deviation occurred July 27, 2012 when it was noticed that dust was coming from the main plant slinger bay sand bin dust collector discharge chute. It was discovered that the dust collector was off, and it was manually re-started. The ensuing investigation discovered that a relay failed, so the relay was replaced.

The second deviation occurred Sept. 26, 2012 when it was noticed that the dust collector warning light was on from the main plant doghouse. Attempts to restart the collector failed. A ground fault was discovered to have turned the dust collector off. The pour continued during the outage. Staff later restarted the dust collector.

In both cases, ESCO reported the incidents to DEQ, as required by the permit.

Peveto wanted to know if the number of deviations is atypical or the standard.

Webb said ESCO's plants can go months without a deviation or upset condition.

Baldwin wanted to know why the pour wasn't halted during the deviation on Sept. 26.

Webb said the high temperature of the metal would have damaged equipment if it wasn't poured into the molds.

Baldwin clarified that she wasn't suggesting the pour should have been halted, but that she had wanted a better understanding of the operation and indicated she understood now.

Webb added that DEQ inspected the main plant on 9-11-12 and found no violations.

Baldwin asked if that was a scheduled inspection and Webb confirmed it was.

The final updates from ESCO were that projects #2, #11 and #12 under attachment A of the Good Neighbor Agreement have been completed. NAC members have already viewed projects #11 and #12, which involved reducing the dump back process, and indicated they did not want to view it again. Project #2 involves installing a dust collector on the lower finishing area air arc, on average, 571 pounds of dust is being collected from the area each month.

Baldwin wanted to know if that included particulate and metallic matter.

Webb confirmed it did. Webb said NAC members can now inspect project #2 prior to 12/18/2012. ESCO will contact the NAC between now and then with a proposed date for this project tour.

Questions for ESCO from the NAC, and feedback from the NAC to ESCO

Baldwin said the previous discussion about projects under attachment A provided a nice segue into the next section of the meeting. Baldwin wanted to know the progress made on project #9. She said she understood that the project is not due until 12/31/2012, but it would be nice if the NAC could inspect both #2 and #9 at the same time if ESCO could have #9 done early.

Webb and Erickson said they would check with the appropriate MP and PI3 staff to see if we could have the NAC tour for #9 earlier than expected, for the convenience of the NAC and we would get back with them regarding.

Baldwin said she hopes that bundling the annual report and the annual tour can be accomplished at an upcoming NAC meeting. Erickson explained that in previous discussions the January meeting was proposed for the tour, but the Annual Report would not be available by this time. So ESCO agreed to go back and look at Air Permit Report deadlines and get back with the NAC regarding a good time to do these together, possibly in April.

Amundson wanted to know if the wind speed monitor has been installed and the data posted to the NAC website.

Webb said that project has been completed.

Baldwin said the NAC had three questions for ESCO:

1. An update on the complaint process (including discussion of ESCO decision on the NAC motion to have the complaint log available on the internet).
2. Update on website and e-mail address for public comment. NAC members have received no emails from website.
3. Comments, questions from NAC members to ESCO

Genasci reiterated that the information the NAC has long wanted is wind speed and direction to correlate to plant activities at the time a complaint is received. ESCO has investigated such complaints, which are available from ESCO. She contends ESCO's decision to not provide the complaint logs electronically to her is not in the spirit of the GNA. She heard neighbors saying the odors were worse this summer than in 2011.

Genasci said she reviewed ESCO's complaint log on Oct. 18, 2012 and saw that 83 complaints were logged from May 8 through September. Sixty-seven complaints were filed during the same time period in 2011. She said that there were 20 percent more complaints since the GNA was signed. She mentioned one new neighbor who moved from California and is a lawyer. This new resident reportedly said that the odor is significant enough that in California he could have sued the landlord for not disclosing the odor issue.

She said the Ethics Point reporting system isn't working for NAC because they aren't paying attention to the group. She said communication with ESCO isn't the problem. Genasci wondered if the increased reports of odors during the summer corresponded with increased production levels at ESCO.

Webb said production levels have remained constant.

Genasci asked ESCO to provide production levels during the summer compared to what they were at the time the GNA was signed.

Erickson mentioned that ESCO would provide the information in the Annual Report that shows in the GNA 4.9.2, which includes a summary of the state of ESCO's business. Egre said that the annual report will also include a summary of complaints received and the annual report will be made available to the public on the NAC webpage.

Genasci said the NAC received 176 complaints from April 21, 2011 to Oct. 5, 2012. Many of these the NWDA/DEQ determined were not connected to ESCO. She also wanted to know why ESCO is only viewing a two hour window during our complaint investigation process. She called that timing arbitrary.

Erickson said that ESCO has used the two hour window for many years. A conservative estimate was desired and odor from production typically dissipates in less than two hours. When the air is stagnant during the summer months we do have more complaints than the rest of the year.

Amundson wondered if different binders are being used and if one binder is more odorous than others.

Webb said Plant 3 uses one binder and the Main Plant uses two.

NAC Organizational and Process

Baldwin asked that ESCO provide a written update of plant improvements prior to the public tour in 2013. Erickson said that with our combining the Annual Report out with the annual tour, that a recent list of GNA Attach A project updates would be available for the tour. She said that NAC will conduct a survey to determine the preferred time and tour for the second quarter of 2013. ESCO will check on shift schedules.

Peveto moved to schedule the community tour with the release of the annual report to come in the second quarter of 2013.

The motion passed unanimously.

Baldwin asked the NAC how they wanted to prioritize the work plan items in the GNA. The reverse 9-1-1 issue was one of those items. She identified five potential items that could be the focus for the group.

Those areas are:

1. Monitoring at Chapman
2. Emergency Response Plan
3. Measures to reduce exposures
4. Measures to respond to upsets and incidents that may have the potential to increase air emissions
5. Community Monitoring

Genasci said that community monitoring remains a key issue for the NAC, but that she's not sure what influence the group has over any of these areas.

Baldwin agreed that's the bigger question.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that Genasci would meet with others to prioritize and report back to the NAC which items the group would address first. Baldwin suggested that the Chapman monitoring could be one of the first items since there is already some groundwork done in that area. ESCO was to consult with DEQ and NAC regarding this issue. Baldwin asked ESCO if it wanted to be involved in the process or simply review a plan once it's been completed.

Webb said ESCO wanted to be involved in the process.

Peveto added that Chapman and Portland Public School officials should be brought into the discussion early and that she would be the conduit for that.

Public Comment

No public comments

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 25, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Shortly after the meeting was adjourned, it resumed to discuss the GNA 4.3 requirement to have the quarterly NAC meetings dates for 2013 prior to January 1st (i.e., prior to the next NAC meeting in 2013). Baldwin wanted these meetings to occur after the quarterly trending analysis on the Complaint Logs had been completed. Erickson said we would get back to the NAC with our proposed meeting dates.

The meeting was again adjourned 10:45 a.m.