

Community Update

For FMC's Corporation's Agricultural Products Group, Middleport, New York

Issue 2 ♦ Spring 1999

A Message from FMC

This is the second in a series of newsletters that we are publishing on a quarterly basis to keep the community informed of our activities at the Middleport plant. I'm pleased to announce that Patt Fagan has joined our staff as the Community Relations Liaison. We created this position to further our commitment to working with the community. We have included an article introducing Patt in this issue of the *Community Update*. We have an open door at FMC, so please feel free to call us at (716) 735-3761, Ext. 289 or Ext. 364 if you have any questions or comments.

— Stu Throop, Plant Manager

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FMC Welcomes New Community Relations Liaison

You will probably be hearing more from Patt Fagan, the new Community Relations Liaison at FMC. She will be sharing what is happening at the plant and in the community with local residents. Patt has a Masters Degree from the State University College at Geneseo. She resides in Middleport and has three children in the Royalton-Hartland schools.



Previously, she coordinated the outreach and publicity programs at a public access television

station. "I got involved in local television while teaching. I produced sign language videos that eventually led me in other directions," says Patt.

Involvement in community events and school budgets provided additional experiences in publicity and planning. Patt serves on the Board of Directors of the Lockport Rotary Club and Literacy Volunteers of Niagara County.

"Whether it's writing, speaking or working with video, it's exciting to see the communication process at work," she says. "It's even better that I can do that right here in my own community."

If you have any questions for Patt, please feel free to call her at (716) 735-3761, Ext. 289.

Interim Corrective Measure Activities for the Royalton-Hartland School Football Field Area

In August 1998, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and the Department of Health (NYSDOH) requested that FMC perform an Interim Corrective Measure (ICM) to remove soil from a defined area of the Royalton-Hartland schoolyard.

In response to the agencies' request, FMC has agreed to conduct an ICM at the Royalton-Hartland school football area.

The ICM includes the following:

- Pre-excavation and confirmation sampling;
- Soil excavation and removal;
- Depositing the removed soil in an approved waste management area on FMC's property;
- Post excavation confirmation sampling;
- Backfilling the schoolyard with clean soil; and
- Restoring the football field and athletic fields.

FMC worked closely with school officials on plans to remove additional soil from an area approximately 100 feet east and 50 feet north of the original area of the schoolyard that was defined by the agencies. FMC made a formal proposal to the School Board in November, which was unanimously approved in December. The additional soil excavation will be performed in conjunction with the Football Field ICM project, which is scheduled for the summer of 1999.

To help ensure public health, safety and protection during the soil project removal, a Health and Safety Plan will be implemented. The plan describes the health and safety and emergency response procedures that will be used during the removal work to make certain that soil and dust from the site does not become airborne as the excavation takes place.

FMC has proposed a haul route for transporting the excavated soil that avoids public roads in order to minimize inconvenience to local residents.

Improvements to the Royalton-Hartland Schoolyard

Once the excavation work has been completed, FMC will begin to replace the Royalton-Hartland sports complex. Improvements to the area include: a new football field, a new track and field area, new bleachers, a new press box and concession facility, a new equipment storage area, restrooms, and new lights.

DiDonato Associates, the architectural firm who designed the Buffalo Bills' practice field, and other athletic facilities in Western New York, have been hired to design the new facilities. In addition to the

improvements being made by FMC, Pepsi Cola has donated a new scoreboard for the school.

The track and field area will consist of a new synthetic-surfaced all-weather track and separate long-jump and triple-jump pits with all-weather approaches. New high-jump and pole vault areas will be installed as well. The perimeter of the entire track and field sports area will be fenced.

Royalton-Hartland school superintendent Paul Bona, Jr. is supportive of FMC's approach toward the renovations of the school sports complex. "FMC has hired design consultants we are comfortable with, and they have made a genuine effort to involve the District in the planning." These improvements are scheduled to be ready by Fall 2000.

During excavation and restoration activities at Middleport, the current Royalton-Hartland football field and track area will not be in use. A football field for Royalton-Hartland's use for the Fall 1999 athletic season will be constructed on Gasport Elementary School's sports fields.

In order to ready the Gasport Elementary sports fields for fall events, new lights and bleachers will be installed at Gasport. The lights will be positioned in a manner that will illuminate Gasport's baseball and the football field. This work is planned for completion by mid-August 1999.

Community Advisory Panel (CAP) Corner

1998 CAP Roundup

As we mentioned in our last *Community Update*, FMC is committed to sustaining an open dialogue with the community. FMC sponsored the formation of a Community Advisory Panel (CAP) in 1998 to further this commitment. In its first year, the CAP explored such topics such as: FMC's products and services; past and present operational and environmental activities at the plant; FMC's safety record; the Agricultural Products business climate; arsenic and public health; and the soil removal project at the Royalton-Hartland schoolyard. Last October, the CAP met with representatives from the EPA, NYSDEC and NYSDOH to discuss the soil removal project at the schoolyard. At its March meeting, the CAP planned its agenda topics for the remainder of 1999.

Welcome New Members!

The 1998-2001 Middleport CAP is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Darrel Gilbert
Kevin MacDonald
Sharon Smith
Marshall Wilson

CAP members represent their personal concerns and those of the community while serving their three-year terms. Mike Hinton, who lives in Lockport and works for NYSDEC, will join the CAP as a non-voting contributing member.

Viewpoints: A Newsletter for the Community—By the Community

In April, the CAP published and distributed to the community its own newsletter, entitled *Viewpoints*. To compile *Viewpoints*, the CAP collected information from school officials, the EPA, the NYSDOH, the NYSDEC, and other experts to provide credible information relating to community issues, plant activities, and environmental concerns. *Viewpoints* will be published periodically, as appropriate when new information becomes available that the CAP feels will be of interest to the community.

Feature Article: ***Middleport CAP Forges Bonds with Community***

The following is an excerpt from an article that appeared in the December 1998 Issue of FMC Corporation Agricultural Products Group's publication, the Broadcaster.

In the small Erie canal town of Middleport, New York for more than half a century FMC's formulations plant has been a major contributor to the community. Recently, it has become the subject of community-wide attention as it prepares to embark on a major environmental remediation effort. To ensure that the community is well informed, the plant formed a Community Advisory Panel (CAP) that, according to Plant Manager Stu Throop, has paid off in several ways.

"We saw a need for more reliable and dependable dialogue with the community because of past practice issues at the plant – even though some of those issues occurred before FMC bought the plant in 1943," explains Throop. "It's given us a new perspective on how people feel about having a manufacturing facility in the center of their community."

The 20-member CAP consists of a cross-section of the Middleport community with representatives from a variety of professions and walks of life, including a pastor, police chief, judge and veterinarian as well as parents, teachers and students. To avoid the perception that only plant supporters were chosen to be members, FMC distanced itself from the process by asking local community leaders to choose the CAP members. A plant employee is also a member; Throop and Technical Services Manager Bob Wojcik attend meetings as observers.

I feel better as an individual, knowing what chemicals and processes are used, and I was impressed with the extensive systems in place to prevent accidents. It's reassuring to know that FMC is concerned about conservation, the environment and the community's welfare

--Andy Pollock, CAP Member

Robin Ollis, a Charleston, West Virginia, management consultant, serves as the CAP facilitator. "The monthly meetings are very lively and informative. They're not at all combative," she says. "Folks are genuinely concerned. They are dedicated to attending the meetings and being prepared by reading the information they receive ahead of time."

The CAP began meeting in March 1998 and spent the first several months learning about FMC and the plant. They toured the plant, heard presentations on the plant's history and background, learned what the plant does and the operating processes used. They also heard environmental experts discuss contamination issues and the associated risks.

"I feel better as an individual, knowing what chemicals and processes are used, and I was impressed with the extensive systems in place to prevent accidents. It's reassuring to know that FMC is concerned about conservation, the environment and the community's welfare," says Andy Pollock, a pastor and CAP member.

One of the first things the CAP told FMC was that the community needed more information. Says Ollis, "The CAP feels very responsible for making sure credible information flows into the community. They told FMC there wasn't enough information coming from the plant into the community, and FMC has been totally open to the request." The plant was unaware the community felt that way. "We may think we have a pulse on the community, but we're really biased," adds Throop. "The CAP has given us a better connection to the community. It has made us more efficient in knowing what the community needs to know, particularly as this remediation moves forward."

CAP Membership

Greg Bass	Julie Maedi
Mike Chapman	Denny McAvoy
Thurston Dale, DVM	Kevin MacDonald
Larry Demmin	Ryan Pierson
Jason Driscoll	Pastor Andy Pollock
Tom Fuller	Butch Rhinehard
Darrel Gilbert	Jamie Shafer
Mary Grabowski	Sharon Smith
John Grabowski	John Swick
Dr. Herb Koenig	Marshall Wilson

"There was much more concern and misinformation than we thought about products and chemicals at the plant," adds Wojcik. "People thought there was buried waste under the adjoining schoolyard and that we still used methyl isocyanate (MIC) at the plant."

Another concern that came out centered on the plant alarms, which are exercised on a regular basis. It turns out even the closest neighbors had no idea what they meant. "The community had some hideous ideas about what type of industrial accident could happen here," adds Throop. "As an intermediary between the plant and the community, the CAP can help us alleviate some of these concerns."

According to Wojcik, the CAP gives community members an opportunity to help FMC make decisions. "The result is a shared decision-making process on a broad range of interests." Throop further added, "Our intent is to use the CAP as advisors, and that implies a two-way conversation. Not only do we value their opinion, but we think it makes us better neighbors."

Community member Pollock thinks the CAP was greatly needed and is working well. "It gives the community an opportunity to ask questions and get inside the chain link fence and see what's really going on."

Business Bits

Employee Spotlight: Roger Cooper Shipping and Receiving Department

Roger Cooper has worked at the Middleport plant for 38 years. A lifetime resident of the Middleport area, he and his wife Janet raised seven children on their farm located just over 4 miles from the FMC plant, in Johnson Creek, Niagara County.

Roger's children are grown now. The oldest is 35, and the youngest, 20. All seven Cooper children attended Royalton-Hartland School. "My sons played football, and my daughters were involved with school plays and other school activities, but they still had to fit in their chores," Roger said.

When Roger began working for FMC in 1961, he started in the Production Department, where he

packaged the 40 or 50 products that FMC produced at that time. Later, he moved to the Shipping and Receiving Department, where he remains today. Roger is one of four employees in the department. He is responsible for loading and unloading the daily shipments. In addition, Roger also takes care of the paperwork for the shipments.

"I take this responsibility very seriously. It is my job to be sure that all of the containers are blocked and braced, so that their contents don't move around when the trucks leave the plant. I also ensure that the proper placarding is on the trucks so people know what type of materials are being transported," Roger added. "We load and unload 10 to 12 shipments daily. Many of our products are sold around the world."

With 4 1/2 years to go until retirement, Roger is keeping busy. "We have steady work in Shipping and Receiving. We always have a shipment to load or unload. My favorite part of the job is meeting all of the truck drivers and working with everyone here."

FMC in the Community: From a Plant Manager's Perspective by Stu Throop

FMC is committed to being the best at what we do. We have spent years in Middleport striving to meet the needs of our customers as proud members of the Middleport community.



Many FMC employees try to positively contribute to the community's quality of life by volunteering their time and through their donations to local schools, fire departments, and other civic organizations. Our employees participate in United Way activities, the Boy Scouts, and area churches.

Several of our employees also serve as volunteer firefighters for their local fire departments. We also are involved in the Eastern Niagara Chamber of Commerce and other business associations. FMC has a proud heritage locally, and continues to be a proud sponsor of school and community events. While our business is smaller now we continue to insist on top-notch standards of performance.

What's Ahead

FMC is currently updating its private water well inventory as part of ongoing investigations. This inventory was originally prepared in the mid-1980s and was last updated in 1990. Property owners within one mile of the FMC plant were contacted in March, 1999 and asked if they own and/or use a private water well on their property.

FMC will propose to sample some of the private water wells (approximately 25) during the summer of 1999. FMC will contact the property owners in advance for permission to sample their wells to provide current data on off-site well water.

For Further Information

FMC has been a member of the Middleport community for over 50 years and is committed to properly addressing environmental issues related to our plant. FMC will continue to work with the community, local officials, and the agencies throughout this process. If you have any questions about environmental activities at the plant, or are interested in learning more about the plant or the CAP, then please feel free to write to: Patt Fagan, Community Relations Liaison, 100 Niagara Street, Middleport, NY 14105, or you may call her at (716) 735-3761, Ext. 289.

If you are interested in reviewing technical documents related to FMC's environmental activities at the plant, then please call and make an appointment to visit one of the document repositories, which are located at:

Middleport Free Library
9 South Vernon Street
Middleport, NY
(716) 735-3281

Lee-Whedon Memorial Library
The West Avenue Corner North
Medina, NY
(716) 798-3430

NYSDEC's Buffalo Office
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY
(716) 851-7220



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Middleport, NY 14105

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