

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Minutes of Community Meeting
November 3, 1999
Big Island Elementary School
Georgia-Pacific Project XL

Agenda for Project XL
Public Meeting
Nov. 3, 1999
7:00 PM
Big Island Elementary School Cafeteria

Introductions/Project Overview - Pat Purdy

What is Project XL? - EPA Representative

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Stakeholder Volunteers - Pat Moore

Stakeholder Process/Expectations - Pat Moore

Invitation to New Stakeholders - Zoe Miles

Questions and Answers about XL - All

Other Issues - All

Welcome and introductions by Pat Moore, G-P Environmental Manager. Mr. Moore asked each Regulatory group to stand. (USEPA, VADEQ, DOE)

Pat Purdy, Georgia-Pacific General Manager gave a general overview of the mill and of the project to replace the chemical recovery equipment in the mill. The Big Island facility has been making paper for over 100 years. In the 1970's the facility patented a non-sulfur pulping process. It takes approximately 4500 gallons of water to make one ton of paper. The wastewater treatment facility treats an average of 7 million gallons of water per day.

Mr. Purdy stated that the mill is projected to spend \$10 million to comply with the MACT I standards and is projected to spend another \$30 million to comply with the proposed MACT II regulations. Mr. Purdy emphasized that we are counting on regulatory flexibility from the USEPA and State to be able to proceed with the project; including additional compliance time and flexible use of steam generated from the project.

G-P outreach prior to the Nov. 3rd meeting consisted of numerous presentations and meetings to various governmental agencies, environmental groups and community. (please see the copy of the G-P slide presentation from the Nov. 3rd meeting). Additionally, G-P mailed approximately 900 notices to the local community ran ads in the Lynchburg News and Advance for two consecutive Saturdays and in the Bedford Bulletin the Thursday prior to the Nov. 3rd meeting. Press releases were also sent to the following local radio and television stations: WWD, JJS, The River, WRVL, Public Radio, The Arrow, WLDJ, WSETTV, and

WDBJTV.

Mr. Steve Donohue, Project Manager with Region III EPA then presented an overview of the EPA's Project XL process and how stakeholders can participate with industry in the process.

Pat Moore and Zoe Miles, Georgia-Pacific Communications Manager, introduced current stakeholders and made an invitation to others who would wish to participate.

Tom Berkeley of VADEQ and Mr. Tom King of DOE, spoke briefly describing their roles in the XL and permitting process.

Next came the opportunity for members of the audience to ask questions about the project. Mrs. Linda Robinson raised concerns about the mill's (as opposed to the project's) emissions and their toxicity to the community. She questioned whether air samples had been taken and a health assessment performed. Mr. Tom Berkeley of the DEQ answered that the mill was regulated by laws that required the protection of human health and the environment. Additionally, a question was asked concerning StoneChem, the technology provider for the project. A discussion ensued, with the point being made that this company was like any other vendor providing a service to the mill, and that StoneChem was counting on the success of this project to aid in marketing their version of black liquor gasification.

A question was also asked about the project schedule. There was some discussion about regulations and funding from the DOE and how those would affect the final schedule. The answer was that we believed the project would be complete in 2003.

Finally, an opportunity was provided for the audience to raise any other issues. There being no further issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes of the Stakeholder Meeting
November 4, 1999
G-P Training Room
Georgia-Pacific Project XL

Agenda for
Project XL Stakeholders
Kick-off Meeting
Nov. 4, 1999
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
G-P Big Island HR Conference Room

Introductions - GP

Elements of the XL Process - EPA

General Mill and Project Overview - GP

Mill Tour

Lunch

Technical Review of Gasification Project

Stakeholder Expectations, Roles, Responsibilities - EPA/G-P

FPA Objectives/Begin Draft Review

Future Schedule/Communications

Other Business

Welcome by Pat Moore, and introductions around the room. (see attached sign in sheet)

Introduction to Project XL by Steve Donohue.

Dave Beck (EPA) then presented information on stakeholders.

Pat Moore presented a mill and project overview.

Pat Purdy gave a short synopsis of the mill processes.

The G-P Big Island facility can be divided up into three main areas: 1) The recycled linerboard facility which processes about 1200 tons per day of old corrugated containers to produce a 100% recycled linerboard, 2) The utility area which consists of the power boilers and chemical recovery units, and 3) the corrugated

medium area which produces corrugated medium from hardwood pulp.

All participants then went on a tour of the mill.

After lunch Pat Hill discussed the evolution and status of G-P's Corporate Environmental Policies and the related information made available to Stakeholders and the general public. G-P envisions that decisions on the FPA will be made by a simple majority of stakeholders.

David Beck then suggested that due to the low number of actual stakeholders present, that we postpone the EPA's presentation on Stakeholder involvement until the next meeting.

Pat Moore and Mike Ohl then presented a technical overview of the gasification process. General gasification technology was described; and then the discussion centered on the Steam Reforming process. Questions were raised about sulfur and its ultimate fate in the process. Mike indicated that we did not use sulfur-containing chemicals, but that we did see a small amount of sulfur from the chips. Some of this sulfur will leave with the paper products and some will be purged to the wastewater treatment system. The rest will remain in the liquor cycle. The sulfur cycle will not change significantly from the current recovery system.

There was a discussion concerning direct contact evaporators. The evaporators at the Big Island mill in-direct contact evaporators. The smelters, however, do utilize a weak black liquor stream as a scrubbing media for stack emissions. This is in effect a direct contact evaporator as this helps to concentrate the liquor prior to the true evaporators. The evaporators are addressed under the provisions of MACT I. Additional evaporators and an emission collection system will be installed.

Auxiliary fuel will be needed for a Tomlinson recovery boiler but not for the gasifier.

There was some discussion concerning inherent dangers of hydrogen gas. (this is the combustible gas produced in the gasification process) This question has been addressed in the risk analysis done on the gasification process. There are no more dangers associated with hydrogen than with natural gas (methane) which currently being used as fuel in the mill.

The EPA asked about possible beneficial use of the filter cake produced as a solid waste in the gasification process. The calcium content is relatively high and there may be some potential for it being utilized as a lime substitute in agriculture.

The foot print and height of the new gasifier system would be 100 feet by up to 200 feet and about 70 feet tall. The gasifier system would conceptually consist of two gasification units with a total capacity designed for current production. Two units will allow continued production at lower rates should one unit require downtime.

The following was then handed to each one present:

- EPA's "Guide to Writing a Final Project Agreement"

- G-P's application to the EPA to be chosen as an XL Project with Addendum

- A Draft Final Project Agreement for the G-P Project.

It was decided by consensus that we would not review the draft FPA at that time.

Pat Purdy did bring up the topic of schedule. We discussed how the schedule evolved and the many factors affecting the schedule, including promulgation of the MACT II regulations and the receipt of DOE funding.

A discussion about DOE involvement ensued.

Gary Stiegel (DOE) discussed the solicitation process, and noted that we could possibly have an agreement by June 2000.

Charlie Howland (EPA) then asked for more clarification on the DOE solicitation process.

The DOE stated that they wanted to fund four projects in 2000, from an expected \$9 million fund. This amount would be for the funding of black liquor and biomass gasification projects. The schedule for DOE contract would include 30-45 days for the solicitation process, 60 days for evaluation, and then award of the funding. Funding is awarded on an annual basis. There is no guarantee for multi-year funding.

It is expected that there will be \$100 million in funds over the next 5-8 years for gasification projects.

Mr. Lloyd Lorenzi (DOE) was asked to discuss the NEPA process as it pertains to this project. All federally funded projects must be reviewed for environmental impacts. The DOE has three categories of review. The first would exclude the requirement for a review. The second would require an environmental assessment and could take six months to complete. The third would require an Environmental Impact Statement and could take over a year to complete.

A tentative date of December 9, 1999 was set for the next Stakeholder meeting. This has subsequently been changed to December 16, 1999.