



The Dow Chemical Company
Midland, Michigan 48674

2020 DOW CENTER
August 16, 1994

Beth Rusert
Manager, Public Affairs
Monsanto
800 N. Lyndberg Blvd.
Mail Zone G4WF
St. Louis, Mo. 63167

Dear Beth:

It was a pleasure meeting you on the telephone. I look forward to meeting you in person! Per our discussion, I am sending information pertaining to Community Advisory Panels.

Dow's experience with CAPs began in February 1989 when a panel was formed by Dow Canada's Sarnia Division to help deal with one specific issue—the siting of a rotary kiln incinerator. Panel members were flown to Dow's Texas Operations in Freeport to see the rotary kiln there and gather technical information on its operation. This served as considerable benefit to the panel, and helped give Dow an in-depth look at public concerns in a rational, non-confrontational forum. In addition, Dow's credibility in the community was enhanced.

Dow currently has 17 operating panels, with two more under consideration in Europe. In addition, our DowBrands consumer products subsidiary in Indianapolis has an "environmental" advisory panel — formed to assist the company in understanding environmental issues and the growing needs of an environmentally concerned market-place. I have attached a list of the locations of our panels.

Because of the uniqueness and importance of these panels as a tool for outreach, we have hired an outside firm experienced in the advisory panel process to help us develop the panels and select local, external facilitation help. Approximately 12 - 16 local residents including members of civic organizations, community organizations and special interest groups are invited to participate in a CAP. The panel meets regularly to review and discuss issues the panel may decide are relevant such as plant operations, community involvement and emergency preparedness.

The panel may also provide feedback to Dow on ways to improve communications with the community. However, the panels are advisory in nature and will not be asked to formally approve or disapprove any company actions.

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Members are not compensated for their participation, but out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed by Dow. Meeting frequency is determined by the panels. Each CAP facilitator (non-Dow) is responsible for meeting arrangements such as time and place, and notification to members. Members who cannot attend meetings on a consistent basis may be asked to relinquish their position on the panel. All members are asked to advise the facilitator of their attendance plans for each meeting.

As mentioned, each meeting is guided by a third-party facilitator. Agenda topics have been determined at a prior meeting and details of the program are planned and coordinated by the facilitator. Non-agenda items may be considered if agreed to by the members. Panel meetings are not open to the general public. Guests may, however, be allowed by prior arrangement with the facilitator if their presence has a relevance to the issue(s) being discussed. Public release of information shared around the table will only be done with consensus approval of the panel.

Please feel free to call me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Brink". The "P" is large and loops around the "at", and "Brink" is written in a fluid, connected style.

Pat Brink
Environmental Issues Communications Manager
(517) 636-5787

attachments

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