**Delaware's Chronic Polluters Are At It Again**

**Clean Air Council Delaware Action Alert**

**Please take the time to read this it is a little long. There is another incident going on at Motiva right now and Sunoco was flaring again last night. Please take the time to call DNREC and complain. They will never respond appropriately unless a large amount of Delawareans get involved.**

**Please forward this alert liberally to all your supporters, any respective list serves, etc. Please ask everyone you know to call DNREC and complain using the talking points given below.**

**Delaware's chronic polluters are at it again and we would like to saturate DNREC with complaints so they can't say they didn't get any complaints, like they said after the second Sunoco flaring violation that occurred back on March 29th. The DNREC complaint number is 1-800-662-8802.**

**Here is what we know; there are two separate incidences here. One that is ongoing from Motiva, and one coming from the Sun Claymont Ethylene Complex. Which we think is the Delaware name for the south plant of the Sunoco Marcus Hook Refinery, but we are not exactly sure the relationship as of yet or if it is the exact same flare that was involved in the incidents surrounding our pending law suit. They are all right there together along Rout 13 at the Delaware - Pennsylvania border. If anyone has better information on this please call me at, 302-691-0112.**

**Incident # 1, Motiva**

**Apparently Motiva had a problem start 5 days ago with their Carbon Monoxide boiler. Huge amounts of Carbon Monoxide and Carbon Dioxides are leaking from this boiler. This is ongoing and currently happening as I write this as of Friday Morning, April 26, 2002. The entire area is coordinated off and workers cannot get near the place because they are setting off personal alarms.**

**It looks like Motiva did not even report the incident but only told DNREC about it when DNREC happened to call Motiva on another matter and Motiva supposedly said something like, oh yea by the way I was just about to call you on this other problem we are currently having. Or something to that effect.**

**We have been told that Motiva has a permit that requires them to divert to an incinerator within 24 hours of having the boiler involved here "non-functional." Well, Motiva is claiming that even though this boiler is leaking**

**huge amounts of harmful substances into the air it is still functional. And that they thus do not have to divert to the incinerator. According to Jeff Montgomery at the News Journal (the source for most of this info, I think he is working on a story for tomorrow's newspaper) Motiva has not been maintaining the incinerator in question here and that they may not be able to use it to divert the waste even if they were forced to.**

- ✓ **Use the above information to report that you heard about the above activity currently going on at Motiva.**
- ✓ **Tell DNREC to force Motiva to divert the leaking waste from their Carbon Monoxide Boiler to the incinerator or shut down the boiler until it is fixed.**
- ✓ **That is two options, and it should be up to the caller to decide which approach they think is best. Either give DNREC both options or the one you personally think is best. People receiving this email may have different opinions on which is the best approach here but that should not prevent complaint calls from taking place.**
- ✓ **Also tell DNREC to go out and measure the amounts of sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide that is being released. The public has a right to know these amounts and that Motiva cannot be trusted to do it on its own. Extra monitoring must occur as a result of this release.**
- ✓ **Tell DNREC Delaware will no longer accept incidents like this not being reported by the polluter in a timely and reasonable fashion. The five days involved here is neither.**
- ✓ **Tell DNREC Delaware is tired of polluters in this State devastating the environment and the air we all have to believe, only to receive a slap on the wrist from government. Tell them it has to stop now!**

**Incident #2, Sunoco Flaring**

**What we know here is based on what I personally observed last night and from a release notification received from DNREC via the new release notification system; neither of which is very much. There is also a notice on their web page, which can be viewed here (see the email notification that I received from DNREC below): http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/dnrec2000/Notification/Releases/index.asp**

**I should note here that the above Motiva release has not been the subject of either the notification system or the web page notices as of yet.**

**Like I said above we believe this may be the same perpetrator and the same flare as which was involved in the incidents that resulted in our Sunoco lawsuit. But we are not sure on the specifics or if General Chemical was the cause for this faring to have occurred, like they were with the two incidents involved in our law suit.**

**The notifications say they had another release of at least 500 pounds of sulfur dioxide. They also say it occurred yesterday at 6pm. I happened to be driving by last night at about 10pm (south down 95) and saw such a huge flaring occurring that I stopped and drove over there to investigate. There was such a strong burnt rubber almost type smell in the air that I thought it may have been coming from my own car. The flare had a huge bright blue hue with fiery yellow and orange flames dancing up it. I was in the area watching it for over an hour. The flare I saw was on the west side of Route 13 and clearly on the PA side of the Welcome to Marcus Hook sign. So, I am not even sure if what I saw was related to the incident that was reported. I saw another smaller flaring going on the East side of Route 13 that looked like it was on the Delaware border. All the plants run together in this area and it is hard to determine just exactly what process belongs to which facility. From what I understand the flare involved in our law suit was supposed to be on the Delaware side of the border. We are unsure, that may not be correct. I spoke to a Marcus Hook police officer that said the type of flaring that I saw was common there at nights. He works the night shift on a regular rotation and sees it often. I have been driving across the Commodore Berry Bridge every weeknight over the past 11 days for unrelated reasons and have seen one or two large flarings going on every night. One night there was even three visible from the bridge and a very strong smell present on the PA side of the bridge.**

**See the enclosed EPA alert/fact sheet on flaring: what they can and can't do, how measures can be taken at a well run plant to prevent flaring, and some of the health effects involved.**

**Talking Points for Motiva Complaint Call using the DNREC 1-800 - 662-8802 number:**

**Tell DNREC to stop the flaring! That the levels of pollutants emitted directly into the air during a flaring (in this case sulfur dioxide) are too excessive. Tell them that the amounts of particulates that can result are too much of a risk to the public health of the surrounding area. This results in unacceptably high releases of sulfur dioxide and other noxious pollutants and may violate the requirement that companies operate their facilities in a manner consistent with good air pollution practices for minimizing emissions (see the enclosed EPA alert for more details.)**

**Tell DNREC that there have been reports of flaring occurring in the Marcus Hook area on nightly bases. Tell them that an investigation must be done to ensure flaring is not occurring during routine, non-emergency situations or is being used to bypass pollution control equipment. Or in this case to bypass the use of General Chemical to dispose of waste gas (because Sunoco does not even use the type of Sulfur Recovery Plant that is mentioned in the enclosed EPA fact sheet, they dispose of it by sending it over the fence to General Chemical.)**

**Demand that DNREC force Sunoco (and General Chemical) to increase their pollution control practices, including:**

1. **Procedures to diagnose and prevent malfunctions.**
2. **Adequate capacity at the back end of the refinery to process acid gas.**
3. **Install inherently safer processes that will either allow for the use of safer chemicals to begin with at the facilities, or that will allow for the storage of less amounts of harmful chemicals on site at the facilities.**

**Demand that DNREC force Sunoco to install an onset Sulfur Recovery System to help prevent the need for regular flaring and to prevent the types of "emergency" flaring that occurred during the break downs at General Chemical.**

**Tell DNREC that installation of an onset sulfur Recovery System at Sunoco would take General Chemical and their 1913-built facility out of the picture. The General Chemical facility has not been properly maintained in a manner consistent with good air pollution practices for minimizing emissions and dangerous releases. It may even be possible to argue that General Chemical has been allowed to deteriorate to a state where day-to-day operations are unsafe. General Chemical has had over 30 incident reports to the National Response Center Reporting System since 1990.**

**Ask DNREC if they really know what is going on with the flaring In the Claymont area. Because if the above Motiva incident is any indication they do not!!!!!!!!**

**Tell DNREC Delaware will not stand for this anymore! Tell them we all have the right to breathe clean air!**

**The DNREC complaint number is 1-800-662-8802.**

**The information provided below may be from the Cameo Chemical Database and may or may not pertain to this specific release. It is provided as a precaution only.**

**Known or anticipated acute or chronic health risks: SULFUR DIOXIDE**

**The following chemical information was taken from the CAMEO Chemical database. It may cause death or permanent injury after very short exposure to small quantities. 1,000 ppm causes death in from 10 minutes to several hours by respiratory depression. It is an eye and respiratory tract irritant. Persons with asthma,
subnormal pulmonary functions or cardiovascular disease are at a greater risk. (EPA, 1998)**

**Advice regarding medical attention: SULFUR DIOXIDE**

**The following chemical information was taken from the CAMEO Chemical database.**

**Note: Persons with asthma, subnormal pulmonary function, or cardiovascular disease are at greater risk.**

**Signs and Symptoms of Acute Sulfur Dioxide Exposure: Sulfur dioxide may irritate the eyes and respiratory tract. Signs and symptoms of acute exposure to sulfur dioxide may be severe and include coughing, choking,
dyspnea (shortness of breath), sneezing, wheezing, and chest discomfort. Upper airway edema (swelling) or obstruction, bronchoconstriction, pneumonia, pulmonary edema, and respiratory paralysis may occur. Fatigue may be noted. Gastrointestinal effects may include nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. Cyanosis (blue tint to skin and mucous membranes) may be noted following exposure to sulfur dioxide.**

**Emergency Life-Support Procedures: Acute exposure to sulfur dioxide may require decontamination and life support for the victims. Emergency personnel should wear protective clothing appropriate to the type and degree of contamination. Air-purifying or supplied-air respiratory equipment should also be worn, as necessary. Rescue vehicles should carry supplies such as plastic sheeting and disposable plastic bags to assist in preventing spread of contamination.**

**Inhalation Exposure:**

1. **Move victims to fresh air. Emergency personnel should avoid self-exposure to sulfur dioxide.**

2. Evaluate vital signs including pulse and respiratory rate, and note any trauma. If no pulse is detected, provide CPR. If not breathing, provide artificial respiration. If breathing is labored, administer oxygen or other respiratory support.
3. Obtain authorization and/or further instructions from the local hospital for administration of an antidote or performance of other invasive procedures.
4. Transport to a health care facility.

**Dermal/Eye Exposure:**

1. Remove victims from exposure. Emergency personnel should avoid self- exposure to sulfur dioxide.
2. Evaluate vital signs including pulse and respiratory rate, and note any trauma. If no pulse is detected, provide CPR. If not breathing, provide artificial respiration. If breathing is labored, administer oxygen or other respiratory support.
3. Remove contaminated clothing as soon as possible.
4. If eye exposure has occurred, eyes must be flushed with lukewarm water for at least 15 minutes.
5. Wash exposed skin areas with soap and water.
6. Obtain authorization and/or further instructions from the local hospital for administration of an antidote or performance of other invasive procedures.
7. Transport to a health care facility.

**Ingestion Exposure: No information is available. (EPA, 1998)**

**Editor¹s note:**

**Vivian Houston stated, "We believe in an 'environment of democracy' in which the Attorney General should be brave enough to cancel a company's corporate charter if that company either commits a gross violation of its charter or repeatedly violates state business regulations."**