

Celebrating 25 Years of Dialogue, Understanding and Community Outreach

Community Advisory Panels (CAPs) are a proven method for effectively improving communications and understanding between industry and communities in which they operate. In the 1980s, the Chemical Manufacturers Association – now the American Chemistry Council – developed the concept of a CAP as part of its Responsible Care initiative. This program commits member companies to responsible management of chemicals and continued improvement in their practices. In turn, this creates the opportunity for CAP representatives to communicate directly with industry management and to voice any concerns of the community.

October 25, 2018 marks the 25th anniversary of the BASF and Emery Oleochemicals Community Advisory Panel. During the past 25 years, our CAP has served as a platform for ongoing, open, two-way dialogue between BASF, Emery Oleochemicals and the communities of St. Bernard, Elmwood Place, Spring Grove Village and Winton Terrace. The intended purpose of our CAP is clearly defined in our Mission Statement: *The Community Advisory Panel (CAP) provides a forum for open and honest dialogue between local citizens and company plant management. The CAP meets regularly to discuss common issues of mutual interest. By providing information to local citizens, the host companies encourage that flow of information to continue into their local communities to build mutual respect and trust.*

To achieve this connection between industry and local community, our invited CAP members represent a diverse group of community stakeholders including business owners, educators, safety personnel, environmental regulators and the neighbors of the member companies. Over the years, our objectives have remained the same: to bring questions and provide feedback from the community about plant operations and to provide a platform for both BASF and Emery Oleochemicals to inform the local communities about our respective operations, plans and initiatives. Through our CAP, questions are asked and answered, important information is shared, and credibility and trust continues to grow.

Since its inception in 1993, our CAP has discussed a variety of topics specific to both host companies including employee training, safety, environmental stewardship, product research and development, end-uses of products, plant recycling programs, water quality, permitting and workplace wellness. In addition to these regular company updates, our CAP meetings have also provided an opportunity for other local agencies and organizations to share information on topics of interest expressed by the community members including the state of the Mill Creek, homeland security, cyber-terrorism, and local community safety information.

The BASF and Emery Oleochemicals CAP looks forward to many more successful years of collaboration with our surrounding local communities. If you are interested to attend a panel meeting as a guest, please contact Facilitator Bethany Simmons with Ann Green Communications by calling 1-800-784-4343.