

Public Advisory Group Continues To Serve South Charleston

The Public Advisory Group (PAG), which meets regularly to discuss issues pertaining to the remediation and redevelopment of the former East Plant site, continues to provide invaluable community based guidance to FMC. Members of the PAG include elected officials, private industry, neighbors, business leaders, and Division of Environmental Protection representation. Since the formation of the PAG in June 1997, numerous milestones have been reached.

The group meets on an as-needed basis, but at least quarterly. The PAG met 6 times in 1998. Accomplishments for 1998 include drafting a mission statement, completion of a rigorous regulatory and technical curriculum, touring the site, development of a residential well survey, providing guidance on acceptable redevelopment options, and acting as the liaison between the South Charleston community and FMC.

1999 proved to be an educational year for the PAG. Sessions included guest speakers, such as National Institute for Chemical Studies President Mark Scott and nationally known risk assessor Dr. Marguerite Carpenter, and a field trip to redeveloped sites in Pittsburgh. Presentations throughout the year, by FMC Project manager Jim Bodamer and other members of the remediation project team, kept the PAG abreast of remediation

progress. Additionally, the PAG employed the South Charleston High School Community Service Group in distributing door hangers for the well survey, followed by a pizza party at the high school.

Additional information regarding the PAG may be obtained on the East Plant website (www.eastplant.com), including some of the members' personal comments in the online Guestbook.



Left to Right: Denise Hight, Danny O'Donovan, Mayor Robb, Marianne Brockwell, Project Manager Jim Bodamer, Dr. Marjo Carpenter, Bill Granville, and DEP Project Manager David Hight enjoy the PAG's annual holiday dinner.



EAST PLANT UPDATE

FMC Corporation

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Development Acreage Decreases Yet Marketing Efforts Intensify

In late January, the *Charleston Gazette* reported that FMC had broken off negotiations with the South Charleston Area Development Corporation (SCADC) with respect to the former East Plant site. As reported in earlier editions of the *East Plant Update*, SCADC sought to acquire the East Plant site through an option agreement. According to Jim Bodamer, FMC's remediation project manager, the change in plans was brought about by improved economic projections related to the two active units operating on the East Plant site, that is, the hydrogen reformer, currently operated by Air Products under lease from FMC, and the steam plant. These active units currently support operations at FMC's Spring Hill Plant as well as supplying steam to the Tech Center. The location of these units along with the commitment of approximately 4 acres by FMC to the City of South Charleston for an ice rink impacts the nature of redevelopment that is likely to occur there. Rather than having available two or three large parcels to market, working around the steam plant and hydrogen reformer



The Greenbrier Group recently began marketing the East Plant site.

means that redevelopment will occur on multiple smaller parcels. Although he expressed disappointment at not having a larger area to control for redevelopment, even SCADC President Steve Weir acknowledged that reason behind FMC's change of plans was good news for South Charleston

In light of these recent developments, FMC has called upon the Greenbrier Group to assist in marketing the site. The Greenbrier Group, a Kanawha Valley-based business, has a long-standing relationship with FMC. In fact, Green-

brier Group President, Bill Currey, served as FMC's National Director of Public Affairs for the Industrial Chemicals Division from 1973 to 1983. Since then, Mr. Currey has served as the Broker of Record in the sale of most of FMC's large real estate holdings in West Virginia. Among the many transactions that the Greenbrier Group has handled for FMC, South Charlestonians will be most familiar with the sale of the former Navel Ordnance housing tract (now Riverwalk Plaza) and the portion of the East Plant site on which Rite Aid now resides.

The Greenbrier Group will draw upon over 30 years of experience, traditional advertising forums, and its website to reach targeted developers. The firm's website (www.greenbrierrealty.com) boasts an estimated 7,000 hits per month. The Greenbrier Group will be working with the SCADC and other groups (both regionally and nationally) in developing the East Plant site and creating new jobs for the Kanawha Valley.

East Plant Repository Heist

The *Application to Participate in the Voluntary Remediation and Redevelopment Program* was stolen from the East Plant Repository sometime in late September or early October of 1999. The repository was established in July of 1997 to provide the South Charleston community with instant access to technical reports, PAG meeting minutes, newspaper articles, and other items relevant to the remediation and redevelopment of this valuable property. The repository resides in the South Charleston Public Library at 312 Fourth Avenue.

"Why someone would steal items from the repository is a complete mystery," claims Tom Kittredge, repository manager, "especially since all of the contents are available to the public free of charge." South Charleston residents may obtain any or all of the repository contents by either completing a form at the South Charleston Library or applying online on the East Plant website (www.eastplant.com). Repository contents may be viewed at the library during regular hours of operation. The South Charleston Public Library's telephone number is (304) 744-6561.



The East Plant Repository may be found at the South Charleston Public Library.