

East Plant Profile: David Hight, DEP Project Manager



for the East Plant site, joined OER upon its inception.

Mr. Hight, a native Virginian, and his wife Denise, a stained glass artist and entrepreneur, have resided in West Virginia for 23 years. Hight's long-standing 25 year career has found the last seven years within the environmental remediation spectrum and the last four of those with the State of West Virginia. Mr. Hight earned his Bachelor of Science in Geology from Virginia Tech and went on to earn two Master of Science degrees: one in Geology from his alma mater and the other from Marshall University Graduate College in Environmental Science.

"My involvement with the PAG has helped me realize that working with people is one of the most enjoyable aspects of my job."

- DEP Project Manager, David Hight

Hight enjoys his work with OER, particularly with new field and office technologies being introduced on a seemingly daily basis. With regard to the

FMC East Plant Public Advisory Group, Hight claims, "My involvement with the PAG has helped me realize that working with people is one of the most enjoyable aspects of my job." Mr. Hight cites three attributes of the East Plant property that set it apart from the 17 other remediation sites under OER's jurisdiction. The first of these is the fact that East Plant is the first site accepted into West Virginia's Voluntary Remediation program. Another interesting feature of East Plant is the challenge that lies ahead in remediating the site while simultaneously initiating redevelopment. Finally, at roughly 27 acres, East Plant is larger than the state average. It should be noted, however, that there are sites that parallel East Plant in size, including one in Morgantown (20 acres) and another in Point Pleasant (26 acres).

Mr. Hight welcomes public comment and questions. He may be reached by telephone during regular business hours at (304) 558-2505, or by e-mail at dhight@mail.dep.state.wv.us.

East Plant Terminology

repository for this purpose.

Brownfields – any program (state or federal) that seeks to streamline the clean up of unused industrial property through voluntary remediation.

East Plant – former FMC plant that operated in South Charleston, WV from 1948 to 1985. The site is located across MacCorkle Avenue from the Criel Mound in downtown and is West Virginia's first voluntary remediation site.

Public Advisory Group (PAG) – a cross-section of South Charleston stakeholders that have undergone a technical and regulatory education process. The group serves as a liaison between FMC Corporation and the South

Charleston community. The PAG will assist in determining end uses for the site that will most benefit South Charleston.

Remediation – the actual construction and implementation of clean up technology at an environmentally contaminated site.

VRRRA – West Virginia's brownfields law. Acronym for Voluntary Remediation and Redevelopment Act, which became state law in 1996. FMC submitted their application for the East Plant on June 6, 1997.

VRA – acronym for Voluntary Remediation Agreement, which spells out the terms of site clean up between the state of West Virginia and industry.

Survey Finds Absence of Water Wells Surrounding Site

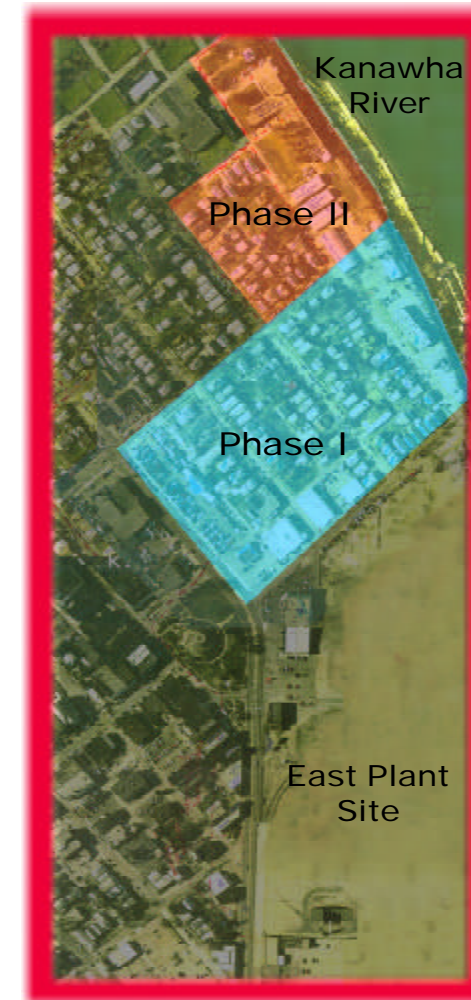
The Volume I, Issue III (December, 1998) edition of the "East Plant Update" reported on a water well survey of residents and businesses in the perimeter of the former East Plant site. The survey, ongoing for the past few months, has yet to find any water wells. Such findings are consistent with expectations at the project's onset. As the initial survey of property owners and tenants living between MacCorkle Avenue and 11th Avenue (north/south) and as far west as E Street concluded, a second phase was added. This second phase included occupants on 10th and 11th Avenues, between E Street and L Street. Additionally, the Hygienic Laboratory for the Department of Health and a business on MacCorkle Avenue (just opposite the site) were incorporated into the second phase.

The water well survey is being conducted for two reasons: 1) to ensure that residents or businesses are not consuming groundwater, which might contain contaminants, and 2) to identify old wells that can be used for groundwater sampling. Since groundwater sits between 35 and 60 feet below the surface, exposure would be highly unlikely without a direct pathway (such as a well). With no wells found in the surveyed area, FMC contractors will be sampling groundwater utilizing

a truck-mounted drill, or Geoprobe, in five strategically located points within two blocks of the site. An accurate depiction of the geology and potential contamination extending from the site is necessary in order to implement effective remediation technologies and determine appropriate end-use.

The survey began on February 4, 1999. Both property owners and tenants at 123 households and businesses were mailed surveys. Those who responded by mail were sent a coupon good at either of Suzi's restaurants. Attempts at reaching those who did not respond by mail were conducted on the telephone. For a variety of reasons, many were unavailable by telephone. Therefore, two rounds of door-to-door surveys were mobilized.

As most South Charleston residents are eager to see the site put back into productive use, response to the survey has been positive. Yet, 10% of the targeted occupants have not responded. If you live in the survey area and did not receive either the survey or phone calls requesting your assistance, please call the East Plant hotline at (304) 744-5088. Furthermore, if you have not responded, you may do so on the hotline or by e-mailing Project Manager Jim Bodamer at jbodamer@eastplant.com. Your prompt response will facilitate the return



An aerial view of both phases of the water well survey, which encompasses up to two blocks west of the site between MacCorkle Avenue and the Kanawha River.

of this valuable property to a beneficial use for the city of South Charleston.

Quotes From The Public Advisory Group

"My husband is a chemical engineer and I have always believed that his company as well as the others have tried to behave as good citizens. This viewpoint has been reinforced by the information and dedication of the people employed by and representing FMC in this brownfields effort."

- Marianne Brockwell

"Working with FMC on the brownfields site has been intellectually challenging—the things they have taught us!—and very

interesting for that reason, and more. FMC has been a pleasure to deal with, and I look forward, as does everyone in South Charleston, to returning the site to an attractive and productive asset to the city."

- Cynthia Wegman

"FMC, DEP, and the City of South Charleston should be proud of the extra efforts they have made. This process should be a model for the rest of the State, if not the country."

- Bill Goode

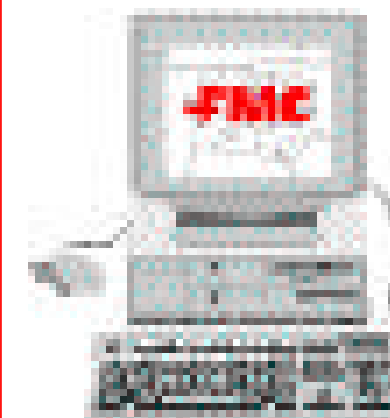
EAST PLANT HOTLINE



(304) 744-5088

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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