



Dow Corning

# news

a newsletter for the Barry Site community

February 2007

## Our team meets the Euro challenge on new pollution prevention rules

A big increase in pollution prevention regulations means the challenge for Dow Corning's specialists has never been greater.

"We traditionally set ourselves very high standards and we have a track record of being ahead of any new requirements," said Mike Squire, environmental team leader at the Barry site.

"But the new European-based IPPC legislation has meant that we have gone through our entire plant with a fine-tooth comb to ensure compliance."

IPPC stands for Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control and the regulations set benchmarks so that 'best practice' is adopted throughout industry. The requirements are particularly wide-ranging and exacting for chemical companies.

Every kind of potential pollutant including noise and odour is examined and a manufacturer's procedures for managing waste and energy are



**Mike Squire (right) with representatives from Cabot and Vopak prepare to take the IPPC permit applications to the Environment Agency.**

scutinised. This mammoth audit is carried out by the company itself, following strict guidelines.

At Dow Corning the operation took the equivalent of two working years for Mike and his team. Five large volumes of data were produced containing together more than 2000 pages. The

information was then submitted to the Environment Agency, which administers the regulations in the UK, where it spent eight months being reviewed.

Because Dow Corning takes a proactive approach to environmental issues the site had already completed 50 of the required improvements under the previous IPC (Integrated Pollution Control) regulations. The fine-tooth comb exercise for IPPC led to a further 28 improvement tasks being identified for completion in the future. These will require significant investment and take nearly four working years to complete.

The result of all the hard work is that Dow Corning's Barry site now holds an IPPC permit which will be subject to regular audit and review.

A huge amount of personnel training has followed in the wake of the IPPC exercise to ensure that everyone is aware of new procedures and their responsibilities.

The new telephone messaging service for the Barry Industrial Complex will become operational during the early part of the year.

The new service, called Rapid Reach, which is shared by Dow Corning, Cabot, Centrica and Hexion, means that subscribers will automatically receive a telephone message if a major emergency occurred at these sites that affected the local area.

It will also phone through a message when the all-clear is given. (Incidents with no off-site implications will not be covered by the scheme.)

## 2400 sign up for emergency phone service

Some 2400 residents (about 40% in our community area) have signed up for the free service. This system will support long-standing measures such as alarms and safety calendars.

While Rapid Reach will be used to notify local people of a serious incident immediately, residents

requiring situation updates will also be able to ring Messageline – a dedicated information service which has also been introduced.

On this line, Dow Corning, Cabot, Centrica and Hexion will be able to provide recorded messages giving the latest situation. The number is 0844 445 7305.

This service is available to all residents even if they haven't signed up to Rapid Reach.

Further opportunities for Rapid Reach registration are planned.

If you have comments or queries about the site, please write to:

**Margaret Matthews, site manager, Dow Corning Ltd, Cardiff Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan CF63 2YL • Phone 01446 732350**

# Our energy watch policy means greater efficiency

Managing and conserving energy has long been a priority on the Dow Corning site with many initiatives introduced over the years to improve efficiency and economy.

Our practice has always been to help and encourage others to improve energy conservation so we were delighted to host an Energy Fair on our site recently in conjunction with the Carbon Trust.

Mark Tyso, utility manager at Dow Corning, said: "We've worked with the Carbon Trust for several years to improve our energy efficiency.

"We have energy-saving processes and technologies in



**Dow Corning's Ian Ogilvie (left) and Peter Davis helped spread the message at the Energy Fair.**

place and we're extensively involved in the research and development of alternative energy sources, such as solar power."

Dow Corning recently awarded a six year contract to Parkersell to manage all

planned lighting maintenance and installations for the 160-acre site. Energy and cost-saving measures include switching off unnecessary lighting during daylight hours, using time-out controls for low occupancy areas and the installation of long-life lamps to reduce maintenance costs.

Jeff Healey, senior electrical engineer at Dow Corning, said: "We're continually looking for ways to improve our environmental performance. This activity will allow us to make some substantial savings on our energy costs while keeping our lighting needs addressed and maintained."

## Mentors scheme in its third year

Our Maths Mentoring initiative for local secondary school pupils is now in its third year, with the latest phase of school visits having begun in January.

About 25 Dow Corning employees are volunteering their time in the 10 week programme with the aim is of building trusting relationships with youngsters in order to help them with maths-related subjects.

They will encourage and coach the children in numeracy and maths subjects and help them to understand the relevance of these studies in everyday life and the working world.

The sessions take place during school hours and on school premises. All the volunteers have been given appropriate additional training for their tasks. The mentors are in support of teachers and are not meant to replace conventional teaching.

## Work on columns

Scaffolding is being erected around two of our distillation columns to facilitate some internal work as part of our routine maintenance plan. The columns will temporarily shut down for the internal work in May.

## Ponds nature centre nears completion



The nature centre at the Cadoxton Ponds site next to the Dow Corning plant is set for completion in the Spring. A formal opening of the eco-friendly building is planned for later in the year. The centre will be used, amongst other things, as company meeting facility and as a classroom for visiting school parties.

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