



ANGLESEA COMMUNITY CONSULTATION NETWORK NEWSLETTER

August 2004



Welcome



Welcome to the first edition of the Alcoa Anglesea Community Consultation Network (CCN) newsletter.

The CCN was formed in 2001 with the intention of providing a regular forum

for any individual or community organisation to raise matters of interest in respect to our economic, social or environmental impact, performance and management, directly with managers or other team members. Participation has been high over the last few years with members from the EPA, Surf Coast Shire, the Greens Party and the Anglesea community attending.

Independent minute-takers take notes of the meetings which are disseminated to the group who act in an advisory capacity providing advice and feedback on issues relevant to Alcoa and the community. To date CCN participants have been instrumental in the development of the Power Station's first ever Environment Improvement Plan and increased air monitoring in the Anglesea region amongst other achievements.

This newsletter is designed to promote the work of the CCN group and disseminate relevant information to the broader community. It will be released bi-monthly and a group of 4 people will make up the editorial committee.

We trust that you find the newsletter informative but recognise that feedback is an important component. Your opinions and thoughts on the newsletter are welcomed by Alcoa's Brendan Foran and Anglesea Online's Nicholas Soames.

Phil Cooke
Alcoa Anglesea Manager
July 2004

So what is community consultation?

Alcoa's Anglesea Community Consultation Network meets every six weeks to discuss issues and share information regarding the impact of the power station on our environment. Broader issues pertaining to Alcoa's global operations are also presented and local occurrences that may influence outcomes are discussed.

The intention is to encourage community participation to promote strategies for the effective conservation of our local environment and to enhance the relationship between industry and the environment.

This may present as a conundrum to some and it is. Opinions may be polarized and perceptions may be unclear. Individual concerns may be emotive and the desire for expediency may be frustrating. However, it is with the willingness of the members to acknowledge these hurdles and to proceed towards an improved mutual understanding of interests that we are entering into our second year of regular meetings. It must be emphasized that we enjoy open dialogue and this is not a platform for debate.

Over the past year, the group has

deliberated over a charter, which defines our expectations and commitments. To share knowledge and to inform the broader community is essential to the integrity of the group. We hope that you find these articles interesting and significant.

Sulphur dioxide emissions from the stack have prompted considerable discussion. Environmental engineers use plume dispersion modelling to estimate where fallout is most likely to occur. Due to Anglesea's topography, previous models were found to be inadequate. The CCN is particularly interested to elicit accurate information and encourages the development of suitable systems to measure the impact of these emissions. The air pollution model (TAPM), which was created by the CSIRO, is used to model these emissions.

Currently, a monitor is located at Mount Ingoldsby and another at the Anglesea Primary School. This alerts us all to the actual ground level concentrations of SO₂ in our daily environment and helps Alcoa to adjust its activities to avoid undesirable emission levels. Another monitor will be located at the Anglesea Community House. This monitor can be moved every three months to gather a

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The Community Consultation Network meets every 6 weeks

Diary Updates

Upcoming meetings

Monday September 13
Monday October 25
Monday December 6

RSVP's are essential to Brendan Foran on 03 5263 4249
E-mail: brendan.foran@alcoa.com.au

All meetings will begin at 7pm and be held at the Anglesea and District Community House unless notified otherwise

Open Meetings can be rescheduled for a Friday night. The dates for them will be agreed upon by the group and determined by the agenda

Non-participating members of the public are welcome to nominate agenda items in writing to Alcoa's Brendan Foran or via a CCN group participant

Contact List

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Websites

Alcoa Anglesea

www.alcoa.com/australia/en/info_page/power.asp

Anglesea Online

www.anglesea-online.com.au

Environment Protection Authority Victoria

www.epa.vic.gov.au

Surf Coast Shire

www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au

Australian Aluminium Council

www.aluminium.org.au

National Pollutant Inventory (NPI)

www.npi.gov.au

Environment Australia

www.environment.gov.au

Australian Greenhouse Office

www.greenhouse.gov.au

Minerals Council of Australia

www.minerals.org.au/

Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE)

www.dse.vic.gov.au

EcoRecycle Victoria

www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Victorian Greenhouse Strategy

www.greenhouse.vic.gov.au

Sustainable Energy Authority of Victoria

www.seav.vic.gov.au

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broad spectrum of data that will satisfy both community expectations and scientific needs.

Determined to move from the metaphysical to the factual, nevertheless, we struggle some times with the interpretation of scientific data. To achieve a common understanding of the facts presented, the engineers are often asked to simplify and qualify complex information. An open meeting on greenhouse gases last year alerted the Alcoans present to the necessity of making their information more suitable for public consumption. Our meetings help them to detail areas where more elaborate delivery of information is required to satisfy enquiries or when data could be condensed for better digestion.

Some members of the CCN also recently participated in the development of the Power Station's Environment Improvement Plan. This document is designed to set benchmarks by which the Power Station can improve upon its environmental performance from year to year. Alcoa has set specific targets for reducing environmental degradation globally and requires

that individual operations pursue initiatives in eliminating waste, conserving resources and reducing pollution rigorously. The plan will be reviewed every six months by the community consultative partners.

Local residents will be interested to know that noise and dust monitoring are carried out and results from this monitoring are then applied to minimisation plans. Recently, a complaint received by Alcoa concerning black dust was investigated but after analysis this substance was found to be sooty mould.

Furthermore, an environment report will be tabled at each meeting. This provides the CCN with data on water management, air emissions, waste management and flora and fauna around the station. Included in the last environment report is the graph comparing Anglesea's rainfall for 2002 with the average rainfall from 1971 to 2001. This highlights the need for a genuine effort from the whole community to conserve water.

Prepared by former chairperson of the Alcoa Anglesea CCN Ingrid Von Moger, March 2003



Vox Pop

"I'm a new resident to Anglesea and would like to know more about Alcoa's operations. What can I do to get some information?"

Members of the community are welcome to read this newsletter and the environment report but there are a number of other ways that you people can learn about Alcoa.

There is a lookout with some information boards on Coalmine road, north of the Anglesea township, but for a more informative explanation a tour of Alcoa's operations are advised. Bookings are essential (details below) and the tours take between 1.5 to 2 hours.

Members of the public are also encouraged to participate in the Community Consultation Network to discuss particular items of importance in a public forum. Agendas for the CCN are determined prior to each meeting and discussion items can be nominated to the agenda at the meetings, by contacting a CCN member or in writing to Brendan Foran. Non-participating members of the group will be notified of the date that the agenda item will be discussed and the outcomes.

For more information on all of the above please contact Brendan Foran of Alcoa on 03 5263 4249 or brendan.foran@alcoa.com.au