

## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **Contact:**

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### **Shell Chemicals Community Meeting**

**College Square Elementary**

**375 College Ave., Beaver, PA**

**TONIGHT, Aug. 1**

**6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

The Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Committee has prepared a list of health and risk related questions to ask the Shell Pennsylvania Chemicals Project Team at the Beaver Community Meeting this evening.

Based on past community meetings in Potter and Center, BCMAC wants to ensure that concerns about health and safety risks the industry will bring to the community's doorstep will be heard, acknowledged, and addressed.

This is the third community meeting held by Shell Chemicals. Shell advertises these forums as a "presentation followed by a questions and answer session," say BCMAC members.

"These meetings have done little to quell citizens' concerns about the health and safety risks surrounding this plant," says Joanne Martin of BCMAC. "We feel that Shell is sanitizing the reality of the petrochemical industry with these feel-good presentations and videos depicting the industry as a clean and healthy operation."

"Residents have serious concerns," adds Terrie Baumgartner. "The public deserves to know about the threat of VOCs, the threat of fine particulate matter, the potential impacts on the Ambridge Reservoir, and the health impacts of all of these threats. We are asking that Shell be a good neighbor and be more transparent about the realities of this high-risk industry and give us the gold-standard in fence-line monitoring."

BCMAC plans to address the Shell Chemicals Team with the following questions tonight:

### **Environmental Concerns**

-We know this plant will emit high levels of pollution, the equivalent of putting ½ million MORE cars on our roads every year. This includes 522 tons of volatile organic compounds annually, or nearly three times the VOC output of the Clairton Coke Works in Pittsburgh with all the implications that it has for asthma and cardiovascular disease. What are Shell's plans for fence line monitoring? What about extensive plant equipment emissions monitoring inside the fence line?

-We understand spectral cameras – like FLIRs – are able to identify the pollutants and emission levels. Parent company Royal Dutch Shell recently announced that profits rose to \$3.6 billion from \$1.5 billion in the same period last year. It seems the company can well afford to give us the gold standard in fence line and plant operational monitoring. What are the plans for moving ahead with such monitoring?

-The community would like to be able to access emissions data and participate in a continuous dialog with the company about their emissions. We understand Argos Scientific Systems has been in use in the San Francisco area for some 20 years. Will Shell commit, in writing, to deploy such a real-time emissions data system, with public, transparent access and regular dialog about such emissions data?

-How will Shell report major emissions releases to the public?

-Fractracker Alliance reports that Shell's Falcon Pipeline crosses the Ambridge Reservoir watershed. Why is Shell building a dangerous pipeline so close to a pristine source of drinking water that serves 75,000 residents?

-We've heard that Royal Dutch Shell has a similar "emissions-free" plant in the Netherlands. Is this true? If so, why isn't Shell building a plant like this one here? Why has Shell instead chosen to buy extra emissions to pollute here?

## **Safety**

-What happens if there's a major accident or explosion? How will Shell alert the community?

-Is there a resiliency plan to evacuate residents in the event of a major explosion?

-Has Shell determined whether existing medical emergency services are adequate to serve the community in the event of an accident?

Will Shell have regularly meetings so citizens can ask questions and express concerns?

Will citizens be compensated for property damage or medical problems?

-What is Shell's definition of a good neighbor?

-Will heavy trucks will be running continuously and with high frequency on the roads? Will they emit diesel pollution, and if so does the public know the health impacts of diesel fumes?

-How will Shell minimize the volume of truck traffic, the added pollution burden and its health impacts, the encroachment of an industrial environment, and the impact on infrastructure?

-How can Shell justify being a pro-climate change corporation when the petrochemical plant will put out emissions equivalent to half a million cars on the road each year?

### **Jobs-Economy**

-Is Shell willing to claim responsibility for the total volume of plastic being created at this plant, 1.6 million tons of ethylene?

-What will it mean for forward-looking outsiders to view Beaver County as a primary source of plastic for the world?

-How many employees are moving here from other places and plants around the world?

-What percentage of workers hired by Shell will be from Beaver County?

-How many outsiders are moving in?

-This plant and the infrastructure feeding it will harvest two decades worth of gas. Then what?

-How does Shell plan to spend the \$1.65 billion tax break? Can it be used for a monitoring system?

To what extent have externality costs such as health impacts, safety risks, and the acceleration of climate change been incorporated into calculations of economic reward?