

Clarification

Factual information related to November 8, 2017 Corunna Site emergency response incidents

November 9, 2017

On Wednesday, November 8, two unrelated emergency response incidents took place at NOVA Chemicals Corunna Site in Corunna, Ontario. We recognize there is public interest and would like to take this opportunity to clarify yesterday's events and prevent misinformation and potential concern from spreading. Please be assured that at no time was there indication of potential risk to the community. Also, that our detection and warning systems worked as intended to protect the safety of our workforce.

As a part of our ongoing commitment to reliable operations, the Corunna Site has been in a scheduled maintenance turnaround since August 2017. Turnarounds allow us to complete preventative maintenance, do reliability/improvement work, complete tie-ins for growth and capital projects that cannot be executed when units are on-line, and address equipment to enhance plant performance. During the turnaround period, air quality monitoring has been conducted 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. On Sunday, November 5, we began the process of restarting the facility.

Following is our current understanding of the timeline of the two unrelated emergency response incidents and our subsequent response to employees, partners and the community. Our investigation is continuing:

EOC Event #1 – 1:00 a.m. - 1:45 a.m.

- At approximately 1:00 a.m., emergency alarms sounded while we were re-introducing feedstock into the plant during ongoing start-up activities.
- Operations and emergency personnel responded, determining that a small drain valve was open in the Olefins Unit. This opening allowed a loss of containment to occur, primarily consisting of ethane, ethylene and methane.
- NOVA Chemicals issued a CVECO Code 8 as per safety procedures for an internal abnormal occurrence.
- Continuous air quality monitoring took place throughout the event.
- Operations quickly isolated the drain valve and closed it.
- The all-clear was given at approximately 1:45 a.m.
- Air quality monitoring results at the perimeter of the unit confirmed readings of zero and no off-site impact.

EOC Event #2 – 4:50 p.m. - 5:50 p.m.

- At approximately 4:50 p.m., Operations and emergency personnel responded to a fixed monitor inside the Olefins Unit that indicated elevated H₂S readings.
- As per site safety procedures, the evacuation alarms sounded, and employees and contractors were moved to a safe location on site.
- NOVA Chemicals issued a CVECO Code 8 as per safety procedures for an internal abnormal occurrence.
- Continuous air quality monitoring took place throughout the event.
- NOVA Chemicals posted information for community and media on the CAER Industry Update Line at approximately 5:00 p.m. Email notification was sent to all employees and contractors at the Corunna Site, as well as officials at the St. Clair Township Fire Department and Aamjiwnaang First Nation Safety and Emergency Response.

- As with the earlier and unrelated incident that took place between 1:00 a.m. - 1:45 a.m., Operations isolated the event to a small area of the unit.
- The all-clear was given at approximately 5:50 p.m.
- NOVA Chemicals updated information on the CAER Industry Update Line at approximately 6:00 p.m. and notified employee and contractors at Corunna Site, along with officials at the St. Clair Township Fire Department and Aamjiwnaang First Nation Safety and Emergency Response.
- Air quality monitoring results at the perimeter of the unit confirmed readings of zero and no off-site impact.

We reiterate that these two events were unrelated. Both are still under thorough investigation. NOVA Chemicals has been in close contact with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

The extraction from the daily personal protective equipment bulletin that was recently shared on social media was entirely unrelated to either of yesterday's CVECO Code 8's. This bulletin, shared twice daily, ensures employees and contractors are aware of the changing personal protective equipment requirements that can occur during the shutdown and re-start of the facility in a turnaround. This is one method of communication we use to keep our workforce safe.

Similarly, the video footage of our flare that was recently shared on social media was also unrelated to yesterday's CVECO Code 8's. The process of restarting the facility after a scheduled maintenance turnaround takes a number of days. We communicated publicly via the CAER Industry Update Line and local media on Sunday, November 5, that the Corunna Site was restarting and periods of elevated flaring and some increased noise were expected. Flaring is a safe, environmentally responsible way to dispose of process gases during the operation of manufacturing facilities.

As a founding member of Responsible Care®, NOVA Chemicals is deeply committed to the safety of our employees, contractors, neighbours and communities in which we live and operate. We value transparent communication and, in the Responsible Care spirit of continuous improvement, we continue to welcome questions from you on the events outlined above. Please direct inquiries to manestcomm@novachem.com.

Sincerely,



Tom Thompson
Regional Manufacturing Director
NOVA Chemicals