

Perdue AgriBusiness Response to BAI Report
October 12, 2012

Perdue AgriBusiness strives to be a good corporate citizen and to provide accurate information regarding our operations to host communities. We understand and respect that a recent report prepared by a paid consultant, Blasting Analysis International, Inc., and distributed by an opponent of this project may raise questions.

Perdue AgriBusiness retained ENVIRON International Corporation, a scientific consulting firm specializing in environmental, process safety and risk management matters, to evaluate the BAI Report. ENVIRON's review and evaluation of the BAI Report was performed by a team directed by Mr. Stan Hayes, an ENVIRON principal with more than 35 years of experience in environmental science and engineering. His team consisted of experts in the fields of engineering, industrial hygiene, air dispersion modeling, accidental release analysis, risk management planning, and health risk assessment.

ENVIRON's analysis concludes that the BAI Report errs in its assessment of the risks associated with our facility on multiple fronts: citing accidents that do not involve hexane, did not occur at soybean processing plants or occurred at plants not representative of the proposed facility; calculating "unsafe" separation distances using an incorrect reference, one used for explosives such as dynamite, which is not applicable to hexane; and calling for actions appropriate for substances listed in federal and state accidental release prevention programs, which hexane is not.

In short, the BAI Report attempts to alarm the public using worst-case scenarios from dissimilar operations and ignores the safety requirements and standards with which Perdue AgriBusiness will comply. Based on ENVIRON's evaluation of the BAI report and confirmation that the project meets or exceeds appropriate safety and environmental requirements, we have no plans to change the facility design.

Our facility will be built and operated in accordance with all environmental and safety regulations and will meet all state and federal emission standards. The facility's design, construction, and operation will comply with current U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and Pennsylvania Code safety and operational requirements, specifically in accordance with both NFPA 36, "Standard for Solvent Extraction Plants," and NFPA 30, "Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code."

We have reached out local first responders to address any concerns they may have. Members of the Bainbridge Fire Company in Conoy Township have toured Perdue AgriBusiness' Soybean Storage and Processing Plant in Salisbury, Md. Additionally, we have presented the project to the Local Emergency Planning Committee of the Lancaster County Emergency Management. We are now working cooperatively with government authorities to ensure that all safety and environmental requirements are fully met or exceeded in our project plans.

We look forward to bringing this beneficial project to Conoy Township, to create direct and indirect employment as well as providing local farmers with a new market for their crops and a local source for feed ingredients. We appreciate the support of local organizations such as the Economic Development Company of Lancaster County, the Lancaster County Agriculture Council, and the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry.