

## ORICA AMMONIA PLANT START UP COMMITTEE

**Minutes:** Meeting 10, 14 December 2011.

**Venue:** Government Offices 117 Bull Street, Newcastle, NSW

### Attendees:

Chair- Gary Davey - Director North East Branch EPA  
Grahame Clarke – Regional Manager EPA  
Tony Merritt - Hunter New England Health  
Trevor Shiels - NSW Police  
Adam Gilligan - Compliance Services Manager Newcastle City Council  
Laurence Richey - Team Manager WorkCover  
Lilia Donkova - Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
Stephen Davis - Fire and Rescue NSW  
Dave Chamings – WorkCover NSW

### Apologies:

Paul Minett – Port Stephens Council  
Stuart Harvey - Major Hazard Facilities Team - Fire and Rescue NSW

### Item 1: Introduction and Welcome.

The Chair opened the meeting at 8.45am and welcomed the members of the Committee.

### Item 2: Previous Meeting Minutes.

NSW Health requested that item 7 of the draft minutes for meeting 8 be amended to reflect that NSW Health would defer decisions on readiness to operate and revoking prevention notices to the EPA, but otherwise raised no objection. The amendment was noted and the minutes of meeting 9 confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

### Item 3: Update on Nitric Acid Plant and Ammonium Nitrate Plant Start-Up.

The EPA revoked the Prevention Notice applying to the ammonia storage tanks on 6 December 2011. This effectively allowed the recommissioning of the ammonium nitrate and nitric acid plants. Orica has commenced re-start up works for the ammonium nitrate plant and the nitric acid plants.

However, the Prevention Notice applying to the ammonia plant remains in place.

On 7 December 2011, an incident involving a spill of around 20,000 litres of weak ammonium nitrate solution occurred as a result of a computer card failure. There was no immediate environmental or human health risk and the ammonium nitrate solution that had over-topped the bund soaked into the ground.

The EPA will issue a Pollution Reduction Program to Orica to required an investigation and upgrade of all alarm systems at the site

### Item 7: General Business

The Committee noted that the Chair of the Committee had sent a letter of thanks to Dr Wayne Davies.

Newcastle City Council asked about public notification of commencement of start-up at the ammonia plant. EPA advised that there will be a media release and all members of the Start-Up Committee and Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment would be notified by email with telephone calls to other key contacts.

A Committee update will be provided when the ammonia plant achieves normal operation.

### Item: Next meeting

If the EPA issues a revocation of prevention notice it will not be necessary to convene another meeting of the start-up committee. The EPA will, however, convene a smaller working group with representatives from WorkCover and Infrastructure, Fire & Rescue NSW and possibly Newcastle City Council and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to monitor Orica's progress and matters relating to Orica's expansion plans. Department of Planning and Infrastructure to confirm its involvement in the working group at a later stage.

The Chair thanked all committee members for their attendance and expressed his appreciation to all agencies and their representatives involved in the Orica Start-Up Committee and closed the meeting.