

June 4, 2013

David Lahr
Plant Manager
Solutia Inc. (a subsidiary of Eastman Chemical Company)
730 Worcester St
Springfield, MA 01151

Re: Request From The Springfield Community To Switch The Solutia Powerhouse From Coal To Natural Gas, and be a Good Neighbor to Springfield Businesses and Residents

Dear Mr. Lahr, Solutia and Eastman Representatives,

We are a group of Springfield businesses and residents who are working for cleaner air in Springfield. The emissions from your on-site coal burning power plant are a major source of air pollution in our city. The following letter outlines the steps we would like to see Solutia and Eastman take to clean up the air in Springfield and improve community relations with the company. We hope that you can see us as active partners in this effort.

Switch from coal to natural gas.

Solutia currently burns coal to generate electricity and high pressure steam for its facility. Air quality modeling indicates that this coal burning is causing exceedances of the EPA health standards for sulfur dioxide, and potentially nitrogen dioxide. Beyond emissions of these pollutants, coal burning is a source of particulate matter, another pollutant that degrades air quality and threatens respiratory health in the Springfield area.

Springfield is an environmental justice community severely overburdened with environmental health risks. The area experiences numerous days when ozone and particulate matter, two pollutants emitted by the Solutia power plant, spike to unhealthy levels. Such spikes are well documented to generally correspond with elevated incidence of asthma attacks, hospitalizations, and death from respiratory and cardiac failure. Data on asthma prevalence in schools from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Health show that for 2007 – 2008, the latest years for which public data are available, five of the six public schools within two miles of the Solutia facility had asthma rates higher than the state average, with rates ranging from 18 to 22 percent.

We therefore request that Solutia switch from coal to natural gas at its facility, rather than seeking to continue burning coal. While burning natural gas still creates air pollution, emissions of sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and nitrogen oxides are significantly lower for natural gas as compared to coal. Solutia is one of the largest, if not the largest, point sources of air pollution in the Springfield region. Switching to natural gas would significantly reduce emissions in the region. Solutia's air quality operating permit is up for renewal and DEP is reviewing the renewal application with a critical eye, including requiring air quality modeling by the company, so this is an excellent time to make the change. Switching from coal to natural gas will also help Eastman embody its sustainability goals of significantly reducing emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides,¹ making Eastman a good corporate neighbor in Springfield.

Keep citizens informed about the steps being taken to implement Solutia's facility-wide Enhanced VOC Leak Detection and Repair Program, resulting from the EPA settlement.

1 Eastman's stated goal is to "Reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) by 20% and sulfur dioxide (SO2) by 40% from 2010 to 2020 (NOx baseline of 10,359 tons in 2010; SO2 baseline of 22,068 tons in 2010)" at http://www.eastman.com/Company/Sustainability/GoalsMeasures/Pages/Sustainable_Goals.aspx

Solutia (together with Ineos Melamines) has recently been sued by EPA for Clean Air Act violations. The proposed consent decree, when finalized, will fine the companies nearly 1 million dollars and require facility-wide monitoring for toxic releases of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Solutia should establish a public information committee that will actively keep Springfield residents informed of what steps are being taken to establish and carry out the Enhanced Leak Detection and Repair Program. Solutia should adopt a medium-to-long-term goal of achieving zero emissions of VOCs, and put a plan in place to reach this goal. For the short-term, we request that Solutia set up and maintain perimeter air monitoring with transparent citizen access to data. Neighborhoods in the vicinity of the Solutia plant have long been affected by emissions from the plant and there is considerable concern in the Springfield community about potential risks to public health posed by the facility. Increasing transparency about facility emissions and demonstrating a strong commitment to controlling and monitoring them would go a long way to restoring community confidence in the company. These steps would be in line with Eastman's corporate policy objectives to track and improve the perception of the company in its host communities.

Reduce facility greenhouse gas emissions.

Springfield environmental advocates are working towards a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Springfield, city-wide. Given the history of coal burning at Solutia and associated greenhouse gas emissions from the facility, we would like the company to actively work with area groups, public officials, and the public to help reduce facility greenhouse gas emissions through on- or off-site mitigation. We are aware that the Department of Energy conducted a study of how Solutia could increase efficiency and reduce energy consumption at this facility several years ago, and are interested to hear which of those projects have been implemented and what remains to be done. Further, given the important role Solutia products play in the solar-power industry, we wonder whether Solutia would be willing to construct a solar-power greenhouse-gas mitigation project for the company, or in the community. Such a project could "offset" the company's greenhouse gas emissions, reduce actual emissions associated with power generation, and provide a showcase for the company's products. Such a project would also help advance Eastman's corporate policy goals of reducing the company's greenhouse gas emissions.

We look forward to your response.

Thank you,

William Gibson

Cc.

Alan D. Stratton, Solutia Inc.

Michaelann Bewsee, Arise for Social Justice

David A. Golden, Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, and Corporate Secretary, Eastman Chemical

Godefroy Motte, Chief Regional and Sustainability Officer, Eastman Chemical