

QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE 09.12.20

	QUESTION SUBMITTED - COWDENBEATH AREA COMMITTEE 09.12.20	ANSWER – EXXONMOBIL FEP
1	<p>Mossmorran Action Group has over 3800 members and has been the leading forum for expressing community concerns about Mossmorran since it was set up in 2017.</p> <p>Will ExxonMobil publicly endorse the inclusion of MAG on the newly constituted Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee? If not, why not?</p>	<p>With over 60,000 residents living locally to Mossmorran, we believe that elected Councillors and Community Councils are best placed to represent the wide range of views and interests of their constituents.</p> <p>Any decisions on Membership would be taken collectively by all Members of Fife Council’s Liaison Committee.</p>
2	<p>1. Ground level ozone has been proven to form during large-scale petrochemical flaring up to 8km downwind of the flare. It is also known to exacerbate breathing problems and pulmonary conditions. What studies or monitoring have been conducted by Exxon to investigate if ground level ozone is forming during flaring events?</p> <p>2. Many parents fear sending their children to Exxonmobil's site for pond-dipping, especially since 328 children visited during an ongoing ethane leak, with information withheld at the time from parents, Fife Council and the HSE. Will Exxonmobil commit to carrying out environmental workshops for schools at safe, neutral locations such as Lochore Meadows and at their own cost?</p>	<p>1) Tropospheric, or ground level ozone, is not emitted directly into the air, but is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the presence of sunlight.</p> <p>ExxonMobil has investigated, with the support of an independent specialist consultant, whether these were present in sufficient quantities and conditions to cause formation of ground level ozone. The conclusions of the consultant were that “any increase in ozone concentrations above background as a direct result of FEP emissions would be negligible”.</p> <p>Ozone was raised at a stakeholder meeting chaired by former MP Lesley Laird in June 2019. The specialist independent consultant was present at this meeting and responded to the query at the time, clarifying that primary pollutants were assessed and confirmed that ozone did not present a risk.</p> <p>Ozone was also reviewed by the Fife Council Independent Air Quality Monitoring Review Group following a very similar question being raised through stakeholder engagement. The group concluded that further monitoring of ozone was not required in their 2018 report (available online)</p>

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		<p>A report by independent global consultant WOOD provides further facts, and can viewed at: WOOD report</p> <p>2) We safely ran our environmental programme for over 20 years with more than 20,000 local school children benefiting from this insight to environmental science.</p> <p>We did not receive any expressions of concern from parents or teachers during this 20 year period.</p> <p>The HSE reviewed the environmental pond programme, and at no time did it call for visits to be stopped.</p> <p>In 2019, we did, however, make the decision to re-focus our educational efforts towards an older age group and have since been developing a new programme of support.</p> <p>Our environmental pond remains should we decide to revisit the programme in the future</p>
	<p>Neale Hanvey MP claims 70% of your workforce live within 10 miles of the plant. What percentage of the workforce stay within the fenceline communities (Cowdenbeath, Lumphinnans, Lochgelly, Auchtertool)? Of the 70%, can you confirm the proportion who are permanent residents as opposed to employees staying in temporary accommodation such as AirBnBs?</p>	<p>Members of our team live throughout Fife including Cowdenbeath, Lochgelly, Auchtertool, Crossford, Lochore, Kelty, Burntisland, Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy.</p> <p>All team members living in Fife are full time residents.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>How many times has ExxonMobil given gifts or hospitality to Councillor Allie Bain? What was the total value of these gifts?</p>	<p>Historically, we have engaged with a number of representatives, from all major political parties, including Cllr Bain, at networking events such as a Burns Supper. All events were in compliance with our strict Standards of Business Conduct policy. This is not something we have conducted in 2020, and have no immediate plans to do so in the future.</p>

5	<p>In October 2019 ExxonMobil were reported by the Courier newspaper as saying that they had not ruled out compensation payments to residents affected by emergency flaring and were in talks with council leaders on the issue. What progress has ExxonMobil made in organising compensation for affected residents, especially as there have been a number of further bouts of intrusive flaring since then?</p>	<p>We have not received a formal proposal from Fife Council, and it is our belief that no liability for any such compensation payments exists.</p> <p>We do, however, continue to contribute directly to our local communities via our community and education funds, which has seen us provide over £4m of financial support so far.</p>
6	<p>Shell currently has a transition plan for Fife NGL and an operation plan for running until 2050. Does Exxon have any similar plans for FEP? If not, why not? If so, will Exxon share these plans with the public?</p>	<p>FEP is an important asset in ExxonMobil's global operations and is one of the most modern plants of its kind anywhere in Europe.</p> <p>The plant is operated and maintained without a defined production end point.</p> <p>Our upcoming additional £140m investment underlines our commitment to continue safe and reliable operations. This work alone will bring over 800 skilled contract workers to Fife.</p> <p>Contributing an estimated £20 million annually to the Fife economy, FEP puts Scotland and the UK at the forefront of the chemicals industry as one of Europe's largest producers of ethylene.</p> <p>The significant investments being made will allow FEP to continue to provide high value manufacturing jobs, support the supply chain and contribute to the economy.</p>
7	<p>How many of the workers directly employed by ExxonMobil at Mossmorran belong to a union? How many are on zero hour contracts?</p>	<p>While ExxonMobil employees are not affiliated to a trade union, a number of our contractors are represented. ExxonMobil does not have any employees on Zero Hour Contracts at Fife Ethylene Plant.</p>

8	<p>With Fife Council passing a motion to forming a Just Transition Board with or without the Scottish Government, will ExxonMobil commit to joining the board and engaging fully with the local authority?</p>	<p>We await the detail of Fife Council’s proposal. We do, however, stand ready to discuss our company’s commitment to reducing carbon output from our operations, the important role Mossmorran plays in Scotland’s domestic gas supply, and the role our product plays in reducing emissions for customers, e.g. through lightweight plastics for vehicles.</p>
9	<p>Can the mossmorran petrochemical companies be asked if they could publish a public paper, scrutinised by SEPA and approved by the council that would demonstrate that Mossmorran does not emit any pollutants outwith the published safety limits, that it is operated in a safe manner and does not pose a threat to the people in the local communities. This would then allow an informed debate on the move towards a more climate friendly future taking into account viable and reasonable alternatives.</p> <p>At the moment all we see is the alarmist misinformation from publicity and vote seeking councillors, MSPs and activist zealots who spread alarm with the misinformation. Yes, the light and noise pollution can be annoying and some people might be psychologically affected by this or the misinformation. However what is the view of the overall community? Is it only the view of the noisy minority that matters? A noisy minority that use plastic banners, wear synthetic fancy dress costumes and need other ethylene based products at this present time.</p>	<p>We are committed to ensuring communities have access to factual information to allow them to make an informed decision.</p> <p>Our website (exxonmobil.co.uk) and social media channels, as well as our range of printed materials, include independent analysis from SEPA confirming that all emissions are well within regulatory limits.</p> <p>Over 40 SEPA Air Quality Monitoring Reports since 2019 have consistently shown that all measurements were in the low band of the air quality index.</p> <p>Independent analysis, stretching back over three decades, from SEPA, Fife Council, NHS Fife, Independent Air Quality Monitoring Group, and global specialists also concludes that there are no air quality issues associated with Mossmorran.</p>

10	<p>When was the last time ExxonMobil conducted a safety inspection of their pipeline? How much have they invested to ensure the safety and integrity of their pipeline?</p>	<p>FEP has an established and continuous pipeline inspection and maintenance programme in place in accordance with the regulatory requirements (i.e.UK Pipelines Safety Regulations) and our own global risk management protocols.</p> <p>This annual programme sees our various pipelines inspected by specialist personnel using a range of industry proven techniques such as, but not limited to, Non-destructive testing, visual field inspections, intelligent internal inspection and mechanical cleaning (i.e. pigging).</p> <p>Periodic validation and verification of the established FEP pipeline inspection and maintenance program conducted by the HSE pipeline inspection team has demonstrated full compliance with regulatory requirements.</p> <p>As the spend in this area of work is commercially sensitive, we are unable to provide this information.</p>
11	<p>1. How many ongoing investigations are being carried out by SEPA, and what specifically are these for?</p> <p>2. The Mossmorran Action Group has been told by a whistleblower that FEP are considering sacking a significant part of their workforce and rehiring with cheaper employees from foreign countries such as India. How much truth is there in this? https://mossmorran.org.uk/2020/10/exxon-posts-third-quarter-loss-thousands-of-job-cuts-on-the-horizon-auto-republish/</p>	<p>1) Following any major flaring event or exceedance of a permit condition, FEP is required to provide an investigation report to SEPA within 14 days. There are currently no outstanding investigations required to be provided to SEPA.</p> <p>Per SEPA's website, it is understood its investigation into a flaring event in April 2019 remains open.</p> <p>2) As a company we have been very open about our global restructuring efforts. Indeed, we provided comment in local media. https://www.dunfermlinepress.com/news/18845641.job-losses-expected-fife-ethylene-plant-exxonmobil-make-cuts/</p>

		<p>At FEP we are not making any changes to our frontline process and maintenance teams who will continue to ensure safe operations every day. We are, however, proposing a revision to how we deliver a small number of support roles. The proposed changes will not compromise the integrity of our operations. We remain committed to the highest health, safety and environmental standards.</p> <p>Our £140 million investment project, including installation of a new noise-reducing elevated flare tip, remains unaffected and on schedule to begin its main phase in April 2021.</p>
12	ExxonMobil has been accused of regularly underinvesting in the maintenance of the plant over recent years. What is the current budget for ongoing maintenance? What was it five years ago?	<p>Each year, we invest at least £20m maintaining our facility. Our own maintenance teams are supported by skilled contract personnel from global engineering company Bilfinger.</p> <p>In 2021, we are investing an additional £140m to undertake maintenance, upgrades and introduce new technologies.</p>
13	<p>1. Grangemouth owner Ineos has recently bought BP's global petrochemicals business. Is ExxonMobil considering selling the Fife Ethylene Plant to Ineos? Can Exxon guarantee it won't be for sale in the next five years?</p> <p>2. How much ethane does Exxon take from Shell per year?</p>	<p>1) We do not comment on something that is simply industry speculation.</p> <p>2) As this is commercially sensitive information, we are unfortunately unable to provide this information.</p>
14	It has been well reported that flaring causes vibration within properties in the local area. Will ExxonMobil accept responsibility for damage caused to property by flaring vibration?	We have not received any claims in this respect and it is our belief that no liability for any such compensation payments exists.