



WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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January 9, 2008

Mr. Nick Crosby, Plant Manager
Bayer CropScience
Building 2
P.O. Box 1005
Institute, WV 25112

Dear Mr. Crosby:

I am writing in regard to the recent incident at the Bayer Plant and to express my concern for the lack of timely, direct notification to the University and this community. On Friday, December 28, 2007, the citizens of the surrounding community of Institute, West Dunbar, and Pinewood Park learned through radio and television broadcasts that there had been a chemical incident at the neighboring Bayer Plant in Institute. The news reports indicated that although there was concern through neighboring communities due to a very noxious odor, there was no need to shelter-in-place.

After belatedly learning of the incident, West Virginia State University officials initiated contact with the Bayer Plant to confirm that an incident had occurred. At the University's request, Bayer security staff sent a radio to our Work Control Center. This effort to facilitate communication was appreciated, although approximately twelve hours had passed and the University initiated contact with the Plant.

It was later learned that the dedicated telephone communication line installed by the Plant some years ago as one of several means to facilitate notification had not performed as designed. The telephone was out of service.

The primary purpose of this correspondence is to express the concerns of both the West Virginia State University administration and the citizens of the local community about the lack of effective communication in regard to the December 28th chemical leak. The safety of thousands of students, as well as faculty, staff, visitors and residents in the communities of Institute and Dunbar, continues to be a matter of great concern to me.

I strongly emphasize to you that we who live, work, and study in the local community expect that a sincere effort will be made by the Bayer Plant personnel to inform their neighbors in a timely manner when Plant incidents outside the norm occur. The notification should describe the event, explain its hazardous or non-hazardous nature, and outline any precautions that need to be taken. We expect such communication to take place early in the event. A follow-up release of information at the close of the incident would also be appropriate.

I am confident that, as Plant Manager, you have the same regard as I for the well-being of the students, faculty, and staff of West Virginia State University and the West Virginia State Community and Technical College, as well as the citizens who live in our community. I trust that addressing the communication lapse of the past month will be a top priority for Plant management.

Sincerely,



Hazo W. Carter, Jr.
President

C: Dr. Ron Barley, Interim President, WVSCTC
Executive Council, WVSU
Mr. Tom Dover, Mgr. Tenant Services/Public Affairs, Bayer CropScience
Dr. Jerry Levine, Chair, WVSU Faculty Senate
Mrs. Millie Booker, Chair, WVSU Classified Staff Council
Mr. Austin Moore, President, WVSU SGA
Attorney W. Kent Carper, Chair, Kanawha County Commission
Mr. Roger Wolfe, Mayor, Dunbar
Mr. Walter Greenhowe, Chair, Sub-Area Planning Commission