

Cradock Civic League

June 7, 2007

Laura Somers, President

Cradock Civic League
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Oppose the Proposed Elizabeth River Biofuels Project

Dear Chesapeake Resident,

On Tuesday, June 05, 2007, the Cradock Civic League voted unanimously against the proposed Elizabeth River Biofuels Project in Chesapeake located at 714 Giant Cement Drive on the Chesapeake/Portsmouth Border after a presentation, questions and answer session with the City Attorney of Portsmouth, Virginia. The Giant Cement Drive site is surrounded by water to the east and south and has a rail line to the north of the site that runs parallel to the length of the site. There is only one emergency access and that is from Victory Boulevard in Portsmouth.

The Cradock Civic League is not opposed to the concept or use of biofuels and alternative energy production. The Cradock Civic League is oppose to IBE Virginia, LLC's proposal to use the Giant Cement Drive site (located east of St. Julian Annex) for the proposed biofuels project - Ethanol refinery and bio-diesel plant. Chesapeake and Portsmouth residential communities surround the proposed site. Communities in Chesapeake and Portsmouth within a 3 to 5 mile radius would be directly affected by odors and particulate emissions (the steam may comprise carcinogenic particles and the refining process could possible produce VOC's). The City of Chesapeake and Portsmouth have been given no concrete information or technical data on how the new ethanol technological refining process would eliminate the adverse emissions from the proposed Biofuels project.

Communities within 540' to 5 miles of the Proposed Ethanol Refinery are:

- Brentwood, Chesapeake
- Loxley Gardens, Chesapeake
- Broadmoor, Chesapeake
- Buell, Chesapeake
- Raleigh Heights, Chesapeake
- Portlock, Chesapeake
- Marsh Pointe - Deep Creek, Chesapeake
- Geneva Shores - Deep Creek, Chesapeake
- Gilmerton - Deep Creek, Chesapeake
- Cradock, Portsmouth
- Brighton, Portsmouth
- Cavalier Manor, Portsmouth
- Prentis Park, Portsmouth
- South Olde Towne, Portsmouth

These above listed communities would be greatly impacted by odor, emissions, light, sound, and traffic if the facilities were not operated properly.

The proposed plant would be one of the largest in the United States and produce 235 million gallons of Ethanol per year. The average ethanol refinery produces 40 to 60 million gallons a year. The proposed refinery will be the first of its kind in the U.S. to pioneer a new untested engineering and refining process as a whole complete system. The only other plant to use the complete system is currently under



construction in China. Without concrete data derived from an existing operating facility in the U.S., a sup portable stance cannot be derived.

Ethanol cannot be piped away from the refinery and is a major negative for the proposed location because transporting the final, hazardous product could potentially impact the surrounding residents and businesses. The ethanol will be transported from the plant by 55 feet tankers and rail around the Historic Cradock Community along Victory Boulevard and George Washington Highway. An estimated 100 trips per day delivering raw materials will occur during the operations of the proposed refinery. The refinery will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 350 days a year. The proposal has not addressed the issue of safety of the residents living near the train route. The applicant, International Biofuels Virginia, LLC has not provided a response to how safety will be insured for the Portsmouth neighborhoods in the event of a disaster. The volatile nature of the ethanol production process and presents serious problems for the first responders, which will be the City of Portsmouth's Fire and Medical teams.

This is an unprecedented situation because the proposed Ethanol Refinery is within Chesapeake borders and thus under the review and possible approval of the City of Chesapeake government. The City of Portsmouth and it's residents have no regulatory power or vote but will bear the burden and suffer the impact to its infrastructure such as roads, first responder fire, possible water supply and drainage, and neighborhood impact.

The Portsmouth residents are asking for the help and support of our Chesapeake neighbors. Portsmouth Residents may be barred from speaking at the City of Chesapeake's Planning Commission and City Council meeting when the Elizabeth River Biofuels Project is presented for a vote on the agenda. Portsmouth will need Chesapeake residents to be the voice for the above communities. Below you will find website addresses to communities that are fighting ethanol refinery plant construction in their local. One would argue that several of the listed refinery plants are based on older technology; nevertheless, the proposed new technology in its entirety has no history of testing and no existing model.

<http://www.caresf.com/>

<http://www.careinbarrie.com/index.html>

<http://www.milfordethanol.com/>

<http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/related/181585.php>

<http://www.buffalonews.com/145/story/83740.html>

Please contact the City of Chesapeake City Council and its Planning Commission to find out more information how it will impact YOUR neighborhood and to say no to the location of the proposed Elizabeth River Biofuels Project on the Chesapeake/Portsmouth border.

*E-mail the Mayor and/or City Council
council@cityofchesapeake.net*

*You may also contact the
Office of the City Clerk
306 Cedar Road
Chesapeake, Virginia 23322
Phone: (757) 382-6153
Fax: (757) 382-6678*

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Laura Somers, President
Cradock Civic League

Jh/jh

