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## Make plant pay if there's odor

Penn-Mar Ethanol recently sent out a mass mailing to Franklin County residents telling us they want to clear up what they referred to as the opposition that has resorted to deception, threats of lawsuits and scare tactics.

They started out by stating here are a few of the claims opponents have made about Penn-Mar, along with the truth. Here is one of the examples they have given:

False claim: "Ethanol plants emit foul, noxious odors that carry for miles."

Truth: Penn-Mar Ethanol will be a modern manufacturing facility that ferments and distills crushed corn to make grain alcohol. The process is completely contained and is never open to the outside air. The few vents from the process, such as the carbon dioxide from fermentation and the air coming from the distillers grain drying process, are contained and sent through several stages of "cleaning" to eliminate odors and emissions.

Not only is Penn-Mar installing several million dollars worth of air quality control technology, we have always proposed the use of a thermal oxidizer — something the opposition has demanded be installed at other facilities in the county.

Thermal oxidizers essentially burn up particles and vapors that could create smell before the air return to the outdoors. Because the air is heated, puffs of water vapor will be visible from the exhaust tower. Thermal oxidizers and other emissions control technology proposed at Penn-Mar have only recently been used in the ethanol industry and have resolved the odor issues experienced at some older facilities.

I have written a letter to Greene Township Supervisors asking if the plant does get approved to require a \$1 million performance bond in the event that any odor or emission of any kind leaves the facility of the proposed ethanol plant, they will pay the \$1 million and replenish the bond within (10) days or be shut down.

Each time any odor or emission of any kind leaves the facility they will pay the \$1 million bond.

I have also asked the township to find out from Penn-Mar if it would accept that requirement. I asked this same question at the public meeting, but the project manager said this was not on the table. I guess he did not realize my concern was the rhetoric they were sending in the mail as far as just words. I was looking for monetary commitment, not just words they were spreading.

If they are confident in their words that their proposed plant would not emit odors or emissions, they should be willing to back their words with a performance bond like the one I suggested.

When you look in their statement above you see words like never open to the air, eliminate odors and emissions, thermal oxidizers essentially burn up particles and vapors that could create smell and thermal oxidizers and other emissions control technology have resolved the odor issues.

This would leave the community to believe that the \$1 million performance bond should not be a problem with such a state-of-the-art plant like Penn-Mar.

I am waiting for a reply from Greene Township Supervisors and Penn-Mar Ethanol plant, to see if the township would require this if the plant goes through, to protect the environment and the people who elected them into office, and to see if Penn-Mar does have confidence that its plant is, as they put it, state-of-the-art and will not emit odors or emissions as it has already stated in black and white.

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