

Your Comment on the Ohinewai Foam Factory

All sections of this form with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.

1. Contact Details

Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.

Organisation name (if relevant)	Ohinewai Area Committee		
*First name	Catherine		
*Last name	Maher		
Postal address	[REDACTED]		
*Home phone / Mobile phone	[REDACTED]	*Work phone	
*Email (a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)	[REDACTED]		

2. *We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment about this application

X	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	<input type="checkbox"/>	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct
----------	--	--------------------------	--

3. Please provide your comments on this application

If you need more space, please attach additional pages. Please include your name, page numbers and the project name on the additional pages

Ohinewai Area Committee (OAC) response on Fasttrack Foam Factory Proposal EPA Reference: FTC000023

We are a Committee who act on behalf of the Ohinewai community. We are not experts in planning, or any of the multitude of documents, appendix and expert writings that the Fasttrack application has. Therefore, we are reluctant to comment on specifics, since we don't know what we don't know, and unsure of the implications of much of the information.

However, what we do know is that the folks of Ohinewai are good folk, and keen to make sure their physical and emotional well-being are looked after.

We seek assurances that there is a robust process in place to deal with concerns that may rise through the building and operation of this facility. For example, concerns such as:

- Construction noise
- Light pollution from security lights for both construction and operation

- Smells that may come from chemicals and other sources when in operation
- Dust
- Increase in traffic, and thus exposure to poor drivers
- Impacts on properties due to reverberation
- Run-offs affecting the land
- New rail siding - impacts to neighbours with trains slowing down/speeding up rather than a consistent speed
- Etc

We have observed in other communities the frustration that can occur when there doesn't seem to be any pathway which allows concerns to be aired, and solutions worked towards. We are very aware that unforeseen issues occur in all areas of life, and thus want to make sure that when these occur in this project, that the local community is well looked after. Or that these can be mitigated wherever possible.

Chemical safety

We acknowledge that humans are poor assessors of risk. In that the riskiest thing we likely do each day is commute to work driving a car. We also accept a level of risk from chemicals in our local community with the LPG facility that stores a significant volume of LPG on site and decants this into smaller vessels for consumer consumption. So, the addition of the stipulated foam chemicals is not without precedent.

What becomes apparent from investigating accidents at facilities that handle these significant quantities of dangerous chemicals is that over time people become lax. Procedures are not updated, followed precisely, folks become blasé and installed hardware breaks down or becomes degraded. This can lead to a series of mishaps that can result in catastrophe. Thus the problem is not when everything is shiny and new, but in the decades ahead when the plant is no longer shiny.

We would seek that:

1. There is some process in place where locals can raise concerns at a senior level. Often in these situations workers don't want to rock the boat or endanger their jobs. We request an independent way of addressing concerns that become known to the community. Our suggestion is that a senior manager meets with the OAC on a yearly or every other year, possibly at the AGM – provides an update of what's happening, answers any questions, shows incidents relating to chemical operation, and generally to hear concerns of the community.
2. If the OAC request, they could partake in on-site H & S inspections.
3. Fail safe systems are put in place for storage of the chemicals. There are large volumes of Toluene Di-isocyanate (up to 26 ton), Methylene Chloride (up to 500kg) Methyl Diphenyl Diisocyanate (up to 36 ton). These are not trivial volumes, and if systems become lax over time, issues may arise. Reinforcing point (1).
4. Foam storage off gassing and volatile chemicals: This manufacturing process has volatile chemicals as an input, and given how foam is 'stinky' when new, this indicates that chemical aromas off site could be an irritant / health hazard / impact quality of life for the residents.

Question: What systems are in place to make sure locals are not impacted by chemical aromas?

5. Fire: The risk of fire is always present, and when there are large volumes of flammable material the risk of out of control fire is larger. We would request that the local fire brigade have training on how to deal with the various possible fire scenarios and local St John (both Huntly and Te Kauwhata) are also trained in dealing with chemical exposure / fire toxins (assuming that they are not already trained in this regard). And that these trainings occur regularly onsite, so that in an emergency there are folks already familiar with the layout, the systems on site and what to do. And planning on how to inform residents what appropriate response(s) are.