

Royster-Clark, Inc.
P.O. Box 7867
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Madison, Wisconsin 53707
(608) 222-8626
(608) 222-0713 FAX



May 20, 2003

Common Council Office
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Room 417
Madison, WI 53703
Attn: Greg Markel

Dear Greg:

This letter is furnished to address your concerns voiced by the neighborhood; which we discussed on Wednesday, May 7, 2003. While Royster-Clark can not guarantee the actions of other agencies or companies we will continue to be a productive and active member of the community. Royster-Clark employs 29 associates with an annual payroll of 1.3 million dollars. These associates live in the area and support local businesses, school and community functions.

Railroad noise has been mentioned before by the neighborhood and we have taken steps to address these concerns. We do not direct the switching of railcars, which may take place seven days a week. We requested the railroad to restrict switching Royster-Clark to between the hours of 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Although, the railroad has switched after the hours above, we call them and remind them of the requested hours and not to switch us after those hours if it occurs. Another concern is the noise produced while unloading railcars. The "banging" on the railcars is a necessity to remove clinging materials out of the hoppers. To meet production requirements we need to unload materials from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. However, at the present we rarely unload cars past 5:00 or 6:00 PM. Concerning the use of the train whistle, we have no control over the requirement to blow the whistle. While we understand the community's concern, Royster Clark does not possess the control to modify this activity. Railcar storage outside the fenced area of the facility is also a historical issue. Royster Clark owns the track and at times finds it a business necessity to store railcars on the track due to limited storage inside the gate area. We make every effort to bring the railcars inside our gates and make every effort not to store full cars outside the gate.

Another issue discussed was odor complaints. As information we are regulated by Wisconsin DNR with a requirement to maintain an air permit for the facility. This permit establishes regulatory limits and performance test requirements which we have met and continue to operate below the allowable limits. We treat all community complaints very serious and perform a complaint investigation on each. We continue to work closely with the DNR on these complaints to determine the source of the odor. These investigations are documented with findings in a formal report. In the last three-years we have seen a decline in the number of complaints due to our continuing effort to evaluate engineering or mechanical revisions to our facility. We are making great strides in our manufacturing process to help keep odors to a minimum.

Our goal at Royster Clark is to manufacture a quality product with little disturbance to our neighbors. We are committed to continue this improvement process. We extend to you an open invitation to our facility and look forward to improving relations with our neighbors. If you have additional issues or concerns, feel free to contact me at 608-222-8626 or E-mail me at gsgroves@roysterclark.com. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory S. Groves". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregory S. Groves
Health and Safety, Quality Control Coordinator