

February 15, 2006

Dear Residents:

Over the past number of months, I have been working through a myriad of issues related to the Royster-Clark plant and Wisconsin & Southern Railroad. Unfortunately, these can be complex issues, regulated by both the State and Federal governments, often ignoring or limiting the concerns of area residents. I would like to create a new blueprint of how Royster-Clark, Wisconsin & Southern Railroad and surrounding neighbors can work together to resolve our most pressing issues. Royster-Clark and Wisconsin & Southern can make incremental changes to their operations, and a step-by-step plan detailing what we, as a community, wish them to accomplish will be the first step toward change.

Royster-Clark has indicated that they have made several changes to operations over the past several years to accommodate area residents. For example, they have requested that Wisconsin & Southern not make deliveries after 7:00 p.m. However, their relationship is much like a paper-delivery route: You get a paper when they want to deliver it, not when you wish to receive it. And on occasion, it will land in the bushes.

The Royster-Clark plant currently operates on three 12-hour shifts per week. In the next few weeks, it will begin to ramp-up operations for three 24-hour shifts per week to accommodate the summer growing season. And in July and August, the plant will operate on three 8-hour shifts per week.

In the spring, Royster-Clark will again plant screening trees near the railroad yard. This year, more appropriate and more mature trees will be planted that (hopefully) will grow enough to sufficiently shield the parked railroad cars from view.

To help develop a long-term neighborhood/Royster-Clark/Wisconsin & Southern Railroad plan, your participation is necessary. Enclosed is a neighborhood survey to more accurately define the concerns and issues affecting nearby households. The more information we have about how these two operations affect you, the more comprehensive and effective an action plan can be. **Please return the survey in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible, preferably by March 1.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 284.1508 or lpalm@cityofmadison.com. If you have a specific emergency or urgent concern, contact the Madison Police, Royster-Clark, Wisconsin & Southern or myself as soon as possible. Archived information will be available on the District 15 website at [www.cityofmadison.com/council/district15](http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district15).

Sincerely,

Larry Palm  
Alder, District 15

February 16, 2006

Page 2

enc: Neighborhood survey  
Return envelope addressed to Ald. Palm

cc (w/o return env.): Sup. Andy Olsen, District 17  
Kathy Soukup, Eastmorland Community Association  
Tim Saterfield, Lake Edge Neighborhood Association  
Cynthia Higgins, Lake Edge Neighborhood Association  
Tom Stoebig, Lake Edge Neighborhood Association  
Ken Breezer, Plant Manager, Royster-Clark  
Ken Lucht, Community Development Director, Wisconsin & Southern  
Railroad Company

February 16, 2006  
Page 3

bcc (w/o return env.): Sen. Mark Miller