


29  
6-24-08

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 20, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CITY GROUP TO MONITOR THE NORFOLK SOUTHERN ETHANOL TRANSLOADING FACILITY

**ISSUE:** Formation of a City Group to monitor the Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council:

- (1) Establish a seven-member Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Community Monitoring Group (NSCMG) to monitor and keep the community informed about the many issues involved in the Norfolk Southern ethanol transloading operation; and
- (2) Authorize the Mayor to appoint the members to the NSCMG.

**DISCUSSION:** In our discussions with Council about the Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility Council agreed that we should form a community group to serve as a central information receiving and monitoring group for the numerous issues involving the Norfolk Southern ethanol transloading activities. The group would facilitate the dissemination of accurate and timely information to the Alexandria community.

The resolution provides the following regarding the proposed Community Monitoring Group:

- Purpose and Charge of the NSCMG  
The purpose of the group will be to receive reports and track the progress on the many issues involving the Norfolk Southern ethanol transloading operation, including ongoing permit, legal and other regulatory issues. Members of the monitoring group would be expected to provide feedback to City Council and City staff and to assist in the dissemination of information to the wider stakeholder community. Such dissemination could involve community meetings or information sessions hosted by the monitoring group.

- Membership of the NSCMG  
The monitoring group would include representatives from the following groups:
  - 1 representative from the Cameron Station Civic Association
  - 1 representative from the Cameron Station Homeowners Association
  - 1 representative from the Summers Grove Homeowners Association
  - 1 representative from the Alexandria City Public Schools
  - 1 representative from the West End Business Association
  - 2 members of City Council
  
- Format and Frequency of Meetings  
Staff suggest that this group meet initially on a monthly basis. The frequency of these meetings may be changed as developments on various issues arise. Steve Mason will staff the NSCMG.
  
- Term of the NSCMG  
Staff propose that the group continue for one year from the date of its initial meeting and submit a report to the Council regarding whether to extend the group for an additional time.

**STAFF:** Steve Mason, Special Assistant to the City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, Norfolk Southern Corporation has established an ethanol transloading operation at its intermodal facility in Alexandria's West End; and

**WHEREAS**, Norfolk Southern Corporation made a unilateral and ill-advised decision to locate such a facility near the homes of thousands of City residents, a public elementary school, the Capital Beltway and main north-south interstate highway serving the east coast, and the WMATA Metro Blue Line; and

**WHEREAS**, a facility for the transport, storage and handling of 50 or more railcars, each with a capacity of 30,000 gallons of highly flammable liquid, presents an unprecedented and unacceptable threat to public safety, vital infrastructure, and private property; and

**WHEREAS**, a comprehensive program and of education and outreach to the community is necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council wants to establish a Norfolk Southern Ethanol Community Monitoring Group (NSCMG), to be appointed by the Mayor, to provide a forum for discussing and monitoring activities at the Norfolk Southern facility; and

**WHEREAS**, Members appointed to the Group will include individuals who represent civic and homeowner's associations and businesses located near the Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility, a representative from the Alexandria City Public Schools, and two members of City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, seven members will be appointed to the Group, which will include:

- 1 Representative from the Cameron Station Civic Association
- 1 Representative from the Cameron Station Homeowners Association
- 1 Representative from the Summers Grove Homeowners Association
- 1 Representative from the Alexandria City Public Schools
- 1 Representative from the West End Business Association
- 2 Members of City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the charge of the Group will be to meet monthly to review/monitor the activities of the Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading facility, and to see that the community is informed about activities and issues related to the facility;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alexandria City Council hereby establishes the Norfolk Southern Community Monitoring Group, which shall consist of the nine members identified above;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Group shall meet monthly for a period of one year from the date of this resolution, and shall at that time dissolve unless authorized to continue by the City Council.

ADOPTED: June 24, 2008

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**WILLIAM D. EUILLE**                      **MAYOR**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2286**

**WHEREAS**, Norfolk Southern Corporation has established an ethanol transloading operation at its intermodal facility in Alexandria's West End; and

**WHEREAS**, Norfolk Southern Corporation made a unilateral and ill-advised decision to locate such a facility near the homes of thousands of City residents, a public elementary school, the Capital Beltway and main north-south interstate highway serving the east coast, and the WMATA Metro Blue Line; and

**WHEREAS**, a facility for the transport, storage and handling of 50 or more railcars, each with a capacity of 30,000 gallons of highly flammable liquid, presents an unprecedented and unacceptable threat to public safety, vital infrastructure, and private property; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has determined (1) that the City will do everything that can be done to shut this facility down, and (2) that in the interim the City will act to protect the health and safety of the City's residents from any dangers posed by this facility; and

**WHEREAS**, a comprehensive program and of education and outreach to the community is necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council wants to establish a Norfolk Southern Ethanol Community Monitoring Group (NSCMG), to be appointed by the Mayor, to provide a forum for discussing and monitoring activities at the Norfolk Southern facility; and

**WHEREAS**, Members appointed to the Group will include individuals who represent civic and homeowner's associations and businesses located near the Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility, a representative from the Alexandria City Public Schools, and two members of City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, eight members will be appointed to the Group, which will include:

- 1 Representative from the Cameron Station Civic Association
- 1 Representative from the Cameron Station Homeowners Association
- 1 Representative from the Summers Grove Homeowners Association
- 1 Representative from the Alexandria City Public Schools
- 1 Representative from the West End Business Association
- 1 Representative from the Eisenhower Partnership
- 2 Members of City Council; and

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ADOPTED: June 24, 2008

WILLIAM D. EUILLE                      MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC    City Clerk

City of Alexandria, Virginia

29  
6-24-08

MEMORANDUM

*Revised as of 6/24/08*

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FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER  
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NORFOLK SOUTHERN ETHANOL TRANSLOADING FACILITY

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**DISCUSSION:** In our discussions with Council about the Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility Council agreed that we should form a community group to serve as a central information receiving and monitoring group for the numerous issues involving the Norfolk Southern ethanol transloading activities. The group would facilitate the dissemination of accurate and timely information to the Alexandria community.

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2 members of City Council
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**STAFF:** Steve Mason, Special Assistant to the City Manager



RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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**WHEREAS**, a facility for the transport, storage and handling of 50 or more railcars, each with a capacity of 30,000 gallons of highly flammable liquid, presents an unprecedented and unacceptable threat to public safety, vital infrastructure, and private property; and

**WHEREAS, the City Council has determined (1) that the City will do everything that can be done to shut this facility down, and (2) that in the interim the City will act to protect the health and safety of the City's residents from any dangers posed by this facility: and**

**WHEREAS**, a comprehensive program and of education and outreach to the community is necessary; and

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- 1 Representative from the Alexandria City Public Schools
- 1 Representative from the West End Business Association
- 1 Representative from the Eisenhower Partnership**
- 2 Members of City Council; and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Group shall meet monthly for a period of one year from the date of this resolution, and shall at that time dissolve unless authorized to continue by the City Council.

ADOPTED: June 24, 2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM D. EUILLE                      MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacqueline M. Henderson              City Clerk, CMC



Michele Evans/Alex  
06/23/2008 07:04 PM

To alexvamayor@aol.com, councilmangaines@aol.com,  
council@Krupicka.com, timothylovain@aol.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, PaulCSmedberg@aol.com,  
cc Tony Castrilli/Alex@Alex, Steve.Mason@alexandriava.gov,  
Jim.Hartmann@alexandriava.gov, Ignacio Pessoa/Alex@Alex,  
Mark Jinks/Alex@Alex, Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov,  
bcc

Subject June 24 Docket Item #29- City Group to Monitor Norfolk  
Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility

Dear Council Members,

We have had a suggestion that the Eisenhower Partnership be represented on the proposed monitoring group since their boundaries take in the Norfolk Southern area. The mayor let us know that he concurs with this proposal. We will be prepared to discuss this and any other additions that Council wishes to make to the proposed group at tomorrow night's Council meeting.

Thanks  
Michele

29  
6-24-08

29  
6-24-08



**Mark Williams**  
<markwilliams@yahoo.com>

06/23/2008 07:46 PM

Please respond to  
Mark Williams  
<markwilliams@yahoo.com>

To alexvamayor@aol.com, timothylovain@aol.com,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
delperper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: NS Community Monitoring Group



**Time:** [Mon Jun 23, 2008 19:46:13] **IP Address:** [67.90.176.194]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Mark

**Last Name:** Williams

**Street Address:** 100 Cameron Station Blvd.

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** Virginia

**Zip:** 22304-7737

**Phone:** 202 531 5125

**Email Address:** markcwilliams@yahoo.com

**Subject:** NS Community Monitoring Group  
 Agenda item #29 for the 6-24 council meeting proposes to establish a NS Community Monitoring Group. The Cameron Station Civic Association has been proposed to occupy a seat on this panel. The Civic Association (which is not the official homeowners' association) is an extremely small entity which has historically not spoken for the majority, or even a plurality, of Cameron Station residents. The Civic Association has, in the past, made filings with the City claiming to represent Cameron Station residents which have not been accurate.

**Comments:** In seven years at Cameron Station, I have yet to meet anyone who is even a member of the Civic Association.

I implore you not to include the Civic Association in this Community Monitoring Group.



David Fluitt  
<davidfluitt@comcast.net>

06/22/2008 08:11 PM

Please respond to  
David Fluitt  
<davidfluitt@comcast.net>

To alexvamayor@aol.com, timothylovain@aol.com,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Ethanol Facility

29  
6-24-08



Time: [Sun Jun 22, 2008 20:11:55] IP Address: [98.218.146.138]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** David  
**Last Name:** Fluitt  
**Street Address:** 449 Cameron Station  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 703-370-2372  
**Email Address:** davidfluitt@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Ethanol Facility

Mr. Mayor, Ms. Vice Mayor and Council Members:

My family and I live

across the street from Tucker Elementary School, and I am greatly concerned about the ethanol transfer facility. It is my understanding that representatives from Norfolk Southern argue that based on federal law, the City of Alexandria and/or the State of Virginia have no regulatory authority over their operations. Until the matter is resolved by the courts or other authorities, the City should take action by placing prohibitions on certain vehicle types, weight loads, cargo, etc., using the streets that provide ingress and egress to the Norfolk Southern facility.

**Comments:**

Perhaps that will persuade Norfolk Southern to seek some sort of compromise with the City of Alexandria.

This situation is not only a dangerous one, but also a frustrating development only one year after another corporate violator, Virginia Paving, thumbed its nose at the City Council

and nearby residents.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,  
David

A. Fluitt

29  
6-24-08



**Maureen and Mark Williams**  
<markwilliams@yahoo.com>

06/21/2008 09:37 AM

Please respond to  
Maureen and Mark Williams  
<markwilliams@yahoo.com>

To alexvamayor@aol.com, timothylovain@aol.com,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Norfolk Southern Transloading



**Time:** [Sat Jun 21, 2008 09:37:48] **IP Address:** [38.112.153.193]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Maureen and Mark

**Last Name:** Williams

**Street Address:** 100 Cameron Station Blvd

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22304-7737

**Phone:** 202 531 5125

**Email Address:** markwilliams@yahoo.com

**Subject:** Norfolk Southern Transloading

We are Cameron Station residents. We emphatically DO NOT OPPOSE NS's activities. Proximity to bulk commodity transportation improves access to goods and ultimately reduces consumer prices. In addition, the shut-down of the transloading operations would be assured to involve a truly dramatic increase in through-truck traffic, because transloading would be relocated outside the City limits, but delivery points of course would not. This is extremely significant, since the City is legally unable to restrict almost

**Comments:** any commercial or bulk-freight uses of Duke Street. The truck traffic would dramatically increase air emissions, and serious accidents would be guaranteed, as would 24/7 congestion.

The Cameron Station activist groups from which you have heard do not speak for everyone. They have ignored dissenting voices in their own neighborhoods. Please don't take precipitous action.

29  
6-24-08



**Lesli McCollum Gooch**  
<lesli.mcgooch@comcast.net>

06/20/2008 01:13 PM

Please respond to  
Lesli McCollum Gooch  
<lesli.mcgooch@comcast.net>

To alexvamayor@aol.com, timothylovain@aol.com,  
councilmangaines@aol.com, council@krupicka.com,  
delpepper@aol.com, paulcsmedberg@aol.com,

cc

bcc

Subject COA Contact Us: Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility

**Time:** [Fri Jun 20, 2008 13:13:17] **IP Address:** [71.166.248.202]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Lesli

**Last Name:** McCollum Gooch

**Street Address:** 1016 Harrison Circle

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22304

**Phone:** 703 862 8544

**Email Address:** lesli.mcgooch@comcast.net

**Subject:** Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility

I hope that the City Council members plan to participate in Monday night's event protesting the ethanol transloading facility. I know people make mistakes, and I appreciate the City Manager's apology, but this issue must be resolved immediately. An apology for faulty processes at the City doesn't solve our problem. This is a safety issue. An apology with no immediate action does nothing to protect my family or my community. I would expect all of you to attend the rally, which will take place on Monday, June 23th, 2008 from 4:30 PM until 6:30 PM in front of the Norfolk Southern site on Metro Road (the address is 1000 Van Dorn); adjacent to Van Dorn Metro Station. You should be at the front of this fight, representing the residents of the West End not only at the rally but also in the actual discussions with Norfolk Southern.

**Comments:** I would also expect assurances from

you that you will do all in your power to close down this facility immediately.



We have had to accept your decision about the Virginia paving 24 hour operations, which I believe was in complete disregard for those of us who live on the West End and should be reconsidered. It is shocking that so soon after that debacle that the City would allow for this to happen to us. What the heck is going on here?? It feels as though no one in the City is representing our needs. We pay taxes. We vote. We are Alexandrians. Please start looking out for West End Alexandria residents!!

Lesli McCollum Gooch

**RESOLUTION NO. 2286**

**WHEREAS**, Norfolk Southern Corporation has established an ethanol transloading operation at its intermodal facility in Alexandria's West End; and

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ADOPTED: June 24, 2008

  
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WILLIAM D. EULLE                      MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC    City Clerk