November 17, 2004

DNR
Mark Harings
1300 West Clairemont Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Re: proposed amendment to the October 1, 2002 Environmental Cooperative Agreement between 3M and DNR

I was unable to attend the hearing today, but would like to take this opportunity to make several comments for the record.

Two things here are very important. First, it's important in our world these days to encourage creativity--we need to have new and better ways to do things. These "ways" include both physical (creation of important products and processes) and intrapersonal (creation of new techniques for working with each other on personal or business bases). Second, we need to be ever so much more watchful of our diminishing natural resources--clean air, clean water--to ensure their continued existence and to protect the health of our citizens and earth. Scorecard tells us that Dunn County is surrounded by some of the "dirtiest" (generated in part by chemical releases) air in our state. This is a direct concern to the public health of our citizens. We cannot allow this situation to become worse; ideally we would look for improvement.

Let's face it. The regulatory, confrontational approaches that are common between developers/businesses and the enforcers (DNR, EPA, etc) have not resulted in a "clean" environment. I also realize that the Environmental CooperativeAgreement Program does not ensure compliance, as evidenced by the WeEnergies penalties. And, 3-M itself has recent penalties of concern to me.

But, the CEA offers a new way to "do business." I realize that the current participants in the Program will be the only participants. That makes this a great opportunity. I'd really like to see 3M and the DNR set a foundation to show that innovation and regulatory flexibilities can provide business success and environmental protection. It has the opportunity to be a great success story. Part of that success story MUST be cleaner air. And, the Dunn County citizens need to know that air emission standards are met (in language understood by the average citizen). 3M's leadership role in cleaner air and protected waters could go far by attracting additional ethical customers. And, of course, DNR must be ever vigilant to ensure that any processes do not degrade our natural resources.

I'd urge the DNR to approve this amendment and expect it to be so successful that a new method of relationships between business/industry, the DNR and the public ensues.

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