

Crude Facility Fears Aired

Associated Press

CONVENT, La. (AP) — Wolverine Terminals Corp. officials have sought to reassure worried St. James Parish residents that its plans for a crude oil facility in Paulina will be safe and do not pose a threat.

The Advocate reports (<http://bit.ly/1ksLMBu> [1]) about 50 parish residents attended the state Department of Environmental Quality public hearing Tuesday night in Convent on the company's application for a minor air operating permit.

If the DEQ grants Wolverine the air permit, the company can moved forward with plans to build a \$30 million crude oil terminal and blending operation on a 15-acre Mississippi River site along La. 44.

Wolverine's proposed project includes rail and dock facility improvements along with storage tank construction that would enable the company to receive heavy crude oil shipments by rail from Canadian and U.S. locations and to ship blended oil products by barge to domestic customers.

Given Wolverine's design and its "commitment to air pollution control, the facility will be a minor source of criteria pollutants and a minor source of hazardous air pollutants," according to documents provided to DEQ by Wolverine Terminal Corp.

Wolverine's general manager, Terry Wilson, told residents the proposed facility will not process crude oil and will not use unstable or reactive chemicals or use open flames. Instead, the new terminal will transport, receive and ship heavy Canadian crude oil, Wilson said.

The oil is too viscous to transport by pipeline and must be diluted to be pumped from storage tanks to barges and railcars for delivery to southeast Louisiana refineries, Wilson said.

Wolverine's proposed site is on land leased from the grain elevator company ADM Growmark and is the only site in St. James Parish that could accommodate the facility because it has access to railroad lines and the Mississippi River's east bank, Wilson said.

Some residents who live near the proposed site were not convinced Tuesday the site would not increase noise, air and water pollution or add danger to a residential community where their children live and play.

David Lambert shares a property line with ADM Growmark and has family on either side of the proposed site and behind it. He said he has accepted ADM Growmark as an agricultural facility but not a petrochemical one.

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