

OBSERVER

KCBX Stands Out as "Good Neighbor"

By Susan S. Stevens

A Southeast-side company praised by environmentalists for years keeps trying to improve its relationship with the community.

It is KCBX, a bulk materials transfer company on the Calumet River at 3259 E. 100th St.

"We are very proud of our record," plant manager Mike Gibson said. "We want to keep our company in the right environmental area."

KCBX won the southeast Environmental Task Force's Good Neighbor of the Year Award under Gibson's predecessor, Gary Hosak. When Gibson came in, he vowed to build on the tradition.

For three years now, KCBX has donated \$1,000 to the environmental group for scholarships.

Aaron Rosinski, executive director of SETF, praises KCBX on several counts.

"Their water spray system for dust control is what won them the Good Neighbor Award in 2001," Rosinski said. "They've also been one of our most generous supporters to our Marian Byrnes scholarship fund, sponsoring a \$1000 scholarship for three years in a row."

"Through the GND process, we're in discussions with Gibson about how they may be able to further reduce diesel emissions through idle reduction strategies, exhaust

retrofit technologies, cleaner diesel fuels such as low sulfur and biodiesel, and alternative fuels such as natural gas," Rosinski said.

"We are also discussing plans for installing native landscaping along the sidewalk and berm along 100th Street," Rosinski said. "This would beautify the corridor, increase urban biodiversity, and reduce polluted runoff into storm drains (which ultimately goes to the Calumet River).

"You guys are doing good things," Ald. John Pope said of KCBX. "You are good neighbors."

A "cannon system" that shoots water into the air minimizes airborne pollution, the alderman said.

"We are working with them to find ways to clean 100th Street between the river and the railroad tracks," an area where the company drags a lot of dust from coke and coal, Pope said. A detergent that is acceptable to the sewer system is being sought.

"KCBX believes that conservation and elimination are a part of being a Good Community Neighbor," Gibson said. "Using alternative fuels when economically feasible is also an important consideration."

"Since 2000, the facility has voluntarily reduced total reportable air emissions by 16 percent. Included in this reduction are 25 percent



reduction of emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and volatile organic materials, which are precursors to smog formation."

"To accomplish this we improved or installed equipment and management systems."

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