

Investors press PPG Industries on Toxic Pollution in Poor Communities

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April 14, 2010 (Boston) - Trillium Asset Management Corporation ("Trillium") and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate announced today they will present a shareholder proposal at the annual meeting of PPG Industries (NYSE-PPG) shareholders addressing the company's environmental impacts in low-income communities. The meeting takes place on April 15, 2010 in Pittsburgh.

The resolution calls on PPG to report to shareholders on:

1. How the company makes available reports regarding its emissions and environmental impacts on land, water, and soil -- both within its permits and emergency emissions -- to members of the communities where it operates;
2. How it integrates community environmental accountability into its current code of conduct and business practices; and,
3. The extent to which the corporation's activities have negative health effects on individuals living in economically poor communities.

PPG is a major producer of chlorine and vinyl chloride at its facility in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Residents living near PPG and other companies operating in the area say dioxin emissions and thousands of pounds of cancer-causing agents, such as benzene and vinyl chloride, released each year are responsible for cancers and recurring illnesses. Nearby Mossville is disproportionately burdened by emissions from 14 industrial facilities authorized to operate within a half mile of the community. ConocoPhillips (NYSE-COP), another major corporation with a facility near Mossville, is facing two related shareholder proposal at its May 12 stockholder meeting.

In 2007, noted scientist and MacArthur "genius award" winner Wilma Subra linked PPG's Lake Charles facility's emissions to documented medical conditions afflicting residents of Mossville. (Chemical and Industrial Sources of the Chemicals Associated with the Medical Symptoms and Health Conditions of Mossville Residents, Revised 2007, available at <http://tinyurl.com/ydltx4b>) In the report, PPG is named as a source for more than 60% of the chemicals identified and associated with disease.

PPG responded to the Subra report by saying it "operates the Lake Charles facility in a manner protective of public health, safety and the environment."

PPG issued its first Corporate Sustainability Report last year and published an Environmental Health and Safety Report for the Lake Charles facility in 2008. Both reports provide a short narrative of stakeholder engagement programs, but neither addresses the Subra report or testing done by the US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Government testing in 1998 and 2001 showed residents' blood dioxin levels measuring three times the national average.

"The shareholder proponents believe that PPG falls short in its disclosure of information of the environmental impacts of their operations and lacks effective community engagement." The company operates a Community Advisory Panel in Mossville, "but because neither the community nor the public has access to either agendas or minutes for these meetings, there is no

record that toxic pollution emissions are being discussed and addressed,” said Susan Baker, senior analyst at Trillium.

“Investors lack sufficient information to gauge how effective PPG’s community engagement policies really are. More than 40 investors visited Mossville last summer on a fact finding tour organized by Advocates for Environmental Human Rights (www.ehumanrights.org), the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (www.iccr.org) and the Investor Environmental Health Network (www.iehn.org). This resolution is an outgrowth of that site visit. We want PPG Industries to look closely at the impacts of its activities and the negative health effects of toxic emissions on communities where they operate – especially economically poor and predominantly African American communities like Mossville,” Baker elaborated.

According to PPG, the Lake Charles facility functions in a manner protective of public health, yet recent media interest is likely to pose considerable reputation risk to PPG and its neighboring industrial facilities. CNN is preparing a special report on the environmental and health crisis in Mossville. In the trailer, longtime activist, Dorothy Felix tells CNN “There are people that are getting sick; there are people who are dying because of what is happening in our community. These chemicals are killing us. They will destroy Mossville if nothing happens”. (See <http://www.cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/02/26/toxic.town.mossville.epa/index.html>.)

“We believe corporations have a moral responsibility to be accountable for their environmental impacts, including the negative effects on communities hosting their facilities. The residents of Mossville are trapped in a health crisis not of their own making and they deserve answers and remediation so their community can be made whole again,” said Christina Herman, representing the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, a co sponsor of the resolution.

About the shareholders

A pioneer and leader in sustainable and responsible investing, Trillium Asset Management Corporation (“Trillium”) has been managing the investment portfolios for institutions and individuals since 1982. The firm has a long history of competitive investment returns and a deep commitment to advancing environmental sustainability, social justice and human rights through innovative investment, research, and advocacy.

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate is a Roman Catholic religious community of priests and brothers dedicated to serving the poor in over 65 countries. We engage in active shareholder advocacy, collaborating with other faith and values-based investors through the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility to promote a more equitable and sustainable world. As a religious institutional investor, we seek to address the pressing social, environmental and economic issues of the day. We work to encourage and challenge the business community to develop corporate practices that safeguard and sustain our common global life and enhance shareholder value.