

# SOCMA Announces 2019 Performance Improvement Award Winner

*VanDeMark Chemical to Receive Association's Highest Honor*



Gene Williams, SOCMA Board of Governors Chair, Scott Honan, VanDeMark Plant Manager, Chris Banach, VanDeMark EHSQS Manager, and Jennifer Abril, SOCMA President & CEO

“Plant safety and operational excellence don’t just happen at a chemical facility; it takes hard work and buy-in from the president’s office to the plant floor,” said Joe Dettinger, Senior Director of Compliance & Stewards at SOCMA. In 2019, VanDeMark is being recognized for their exceptional efforts to create a safety culture within their facility that includes implementation of procedures, processes and training that are strengthening their environmental, health, safety and security programs.”

Exceptional stakeholder communication and a commitment to a strong safety culture are among the outstanding EHS&S efforts that led to VanDeMark’s first-ever Gold Award. A crucial part of stakeholder communication is the company’s interaction with community groups, providing critical information on a routine basis. Underpinning the company’s strong safety culture, VanDeMark has a Stop/Call/Wait policy, where employees are encouraged to stop operations for any concern. The company also has an incentive-based program that targets leading indicators as a mechanism to drive 100 percent compliance on key safety procedures.

“Acknowledging excellence and learning from those companies going above-and-beyond industry standards are how specialty and fine chemical manufacturers will continue to excel in environmental, health and safety efforts,” said Jennifer Abril, SOCMA President & CEO.

<https://www.socma.org/2019-performance-improvement-award-winners/>