



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

DPCAC Plants Make Annual “State of the Plants” Report

Deer Park industrial facilities reviewed their 2017 achievements and their 2018 goals and plans at the January meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC). Many highlighted their safety or environmental performance, and several spoke of growth and expansion.

Many plants reported their OSHA recordable rate for 2017. OSHA regulates workplace safety. A recordable rate of 1.00 is the equivalent of one injury among 100 workers in a 12-month period. The best recordable rate is 0.00, meaning no injuries requiring a doctor’s intervention.

Evonik, Intercontinental Terminals, Oxy Vinyls Deer Park, Valvoline, and Vopak had zero OSHA recordables in 2017. Oxy Vinyls was recertified as an OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) site. Intercontinental Terminals was accepted into the VPP Challenge program and will work toward VPP certification in 2020. Dow Deer Park ended the year with a 0.15 recordable rate. Clean Harbors’ recordable rate declined for the second year in a row, to 0.52. Lubrizol’s efforts to transform its safety culture through employee engagement, plant improvements, and improved awareness resulted in a 70% reduction in their rate. Shell Deer Park’s 0.95 rate was the second best in site history.

Hexion ended the year with no spills of a reportable quantity. Texas Molecular’s annual tests of the mechanical integrity of its deepwells resulted in no agency concerns or notices of violation.

Clean Harbors received a permit modification to allow installation of equipment to shred vehicle airbags. GEO Specialty Chemicals’ water treatment chemical business continues to grow. They also will restart an idled unit this year. Valvoline plans to add an automated blending system and tanks in 2018. ITC will continue to add tanks at its Deer Park and Pasadena sites. Vopak also will increase storage capacity at its Deer Park Terminal.

Speaking of goals for 2018, Hexion said workers will continue to implement its “Get Zero, Get Home” safety program. Evonik is committed to use Total Productive Management to reduce mistakes and accidents by engaging all employees. GEO Specialty Chemicals has a goal of zero injuries, spills, releases, and violations.

What DPCAC Plants Make or Do

- **Clean Harbors** is a hazardous and medical waste incinerator.
- **Delta Companies Group** is an industrial packaging company.
- **Dow Deer Park** makes products used by others to make familiar goods that range from disposable diapers to paints.

- **Evonik** manufactures lubricants for blenders of various oils and fluids.
- **GEO Specialty Chemicals** makes an amino acid used in the food industry, a dispersing agent, and a water treatment chemical.
- **Hexion** produces BPA and epoxy resins.
- **Intercontinental Terminals** is a bulk storage facility served by marine, rail, truck, and pipeline transportation.
- **Lubrizol** produces lubricant additives for motor oils and related products.
- **Oxy Vinyls** manufactures chlorine, caustic soda, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) resin that is used in plastics and water treatment.
- **Shell Deer Park** includes a refinery and a chemical plant that produces fuels and base chemicals that go into many consumer products.
- **Texas Molecular** manages hazardous waste and wastewater.
- **Valvoline** is a blending, packaging, and distribution facility.
- **Vopak** Terminal stores clean chemicals.

Visitors are welcome to attend the February 26, 2017 meeting for an update on the Patrick Bayou Superfund Site. For details about the 6 p.m. meeting, contact the DPCAC facilitator at info@deerparkcac.org.

Visit www.deerparkcac.org to read about recent meeting topics, find links to useful resources on emergency communications and the environment, see lists of DPCAC community and plant members, and read our mission and purposes.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Each CAC agenda offers time for Updates of various types. On a set schedule, at each meeting, two or three DPCAC plants provide written updates on safety and environmental performance and business news. At any meeting, plants with significant news make verbal reports. Members report on community activities or ask questions related to the CAC. The CAC also makes decisions on organizational matters as needed. Highlights from Plant Updates are listed in the summary above.

Shell Deer Park

Big projects completed in 2017 includes the Olefins Flare Gas Recovery system, upgrades to the South Effluent Treater, refurbishment of 44 tanks across the site, and planned maintenance turnarounds in several units. Environmental and process safety events during Hurricane Harvey have been reviewed and improvements planned. These include a multi-year asset rejuvenation program to improve process safety.

“The refinery began operation in 1929 and today is among the largest in the U.S. with a crude oil capacity of 327,000 barrels a day (42 gallons per barrel). It operates as Deer Park Refining Limited Partnership, a 50-50 joint venture formed in 1993 between Shell Oil Company and Petroleos Mexicanos or Pemex. Products made in the refinery are the types most people associate with an oil company, such as gasoline, aviation fuels, furnace oil/diesel fuel, marine fuel and petroleum coke.

“The chemical plant started up in the 1940s and has been expanded several times over the years. Very few final “consumer products” are made at the plant. Rather, it manufactures base chemicals or raw material chemicals that are sold to other companies that make them into thousands of consumer products, such as carpeting, paint, plastics, antifreeze, pharmaceuticals, adhesives and ink.”

Clean Harbors

The site’s Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste permit renewal is ongoing. A worker moving a drum strained his back resulting in a lost-time injury when it prevented his resuming work.

“Clean Harbors is a RCRA and Texas Substance Control Act (TSCA) permitted incineration facility. We store and treat hazardous, non-hazardous, TSCA, and medical waste. We also provide incineration services for witness burns to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and various police forces.”