



## Deer Park Community Advisory Council

### Summary of October 23, 2017 Meeting

#### DPCAC Looks at Safety of Chemicals Then and Now

Using two common chemicals whose emissions the group tracks annually, Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) members invited speakers to explain the characteristics of benzene and 1,3-butadiene, how a company manages them, and how the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) assesses risk and sets concentration limits to prevent harm to human health and the environment. In a dramatic example of how exposure limits have become stricter over time, members learned that benzene, which is subject to low exposure limits now, was used in the 1900s as an after shave because of its sweet smell.

Joseph "Kip" Haney of TCEQ's Toxicology Division provided an overview of how the agency reviews air data, assesses risk, sets permit levels, communicates risk, and publicizes data for policymakers. The complexity of the state environmental agency's processes helped members understand their efforts to be cautious when determining exposure limits and using them to evaluate plant permits.

Benzene and 1,3-butadiene are typical refinery products, and an input to many chemical processes, so DPCAC members asked Shell Deer Park to speak. Environmental Manager Kathy Daniels explained the chemicals' properties, uses, and hazards and how a plant manages them. Angie Espinoza spoke about the corporation's Product Stewardship program, which looks at a chemical's health, safety, environmental, and security aspects throughout its entire life cycle from research to waste disposal. Product Stewards also monitor chemical safety practices of suppliers, transporters, customers, and others involved in the supply chain that surrounds the manufacture of chemicals.

Asked how the public may obtain more information about these chemicals, speakers suggested specific TCEQ Toxicology publications, Shell's Product Stewardship Summaries, Safety Data Sheets, and the DOT Emergency Response Planning Guide. Links to these resources are listed on the DPCAC website.

DPCAC meets again on November 27 for its Annual Air Quality Report, which will also cover changes in ozone standards over time. Visitors are welcome. For an invitation and details about the 6:00 p.m. meeting, contact the DPCAC facilitator at [info@deerparkcac.org](mailto:info@deerparkcac.org). Visit [www.deerparkcac.org](http://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. Below are a few highlights from the October 2017 updates, covering from March to October 2017.*

*Plants often report injuries or illnesses with the OSHA recordable rate—the rate of injury for 100 workers working one year. A recordable rate of 1.00 is the equivalent of one injury per 100 workers in a year.*

### Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC)

ITC employees have worked more than a year without an OSHA recordable injury. The Deer Park terminal is in the process of hiring 7 operators to begin in late November. Recently, inspections were conducted by TCEQ and by the Texas General Land Office. The site received ISO recertification in mid-October and will undergo a Responsible Care audit in December.

“Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) is a for-hire bulk storage facility located on the Houston Ship Channel in Deer Park, Texas. The facility covers 265 acres and has a total storage capacity of over 13,058,136 barrels in 242 storage tanks. The facility is served by vessel, barge, rail, tank truck, and pipeline modes. ITC presently employs 313.”