



## Deer Park Community Advisory Council

### Summary of March 28, 2016 Meeting

#### DPCAC Launches “Question of the Month” and Learns about Plant Community Relations Programs

Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) launched a new standing agenda item in which a question of interest to the community is answered by the plant serving as host for that meeting. The “Question of the Month” will also be featured on the home page of [www.deerparkcac.org](http://www.deerparkcac.org). Any resident is welcome to write to [info@deerparkcac.org](mailto:info@deerparkcac.org) to suggest questions about the petrochemical industry for DPCAC’s consideration.

The first question asked is the one community members often hear: *What Is a Flare?* As the host plant, Dow Deer Park responded and shared a diagram prepared by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to show the kinds of equipment from which emissions might be gathered and sent to a flare. Flares are designed to safely burn off excess gas rather than sending it directly to the atmosphere. Flares are most often used in an emergency if an equipment or power outage interrupts the production process. They are also used during maintenance shutdowns and startups. Most flare pilots stay lit all the time to be ready to ignite gases when needed, just as the pilots do in our home water heaters.

While DPCAC focuses on industry-related issues and concerns, members encourage and appreciate the good works that plants carry out to benefit the community. At the late March meeting, all plants were asked to summarize their community relations programs, tell attendees whether they have a full-time community relations manager, if they have a set community relations budget, and the application process to apply for support.

DPCAC will meet again on Mon. Apr. 25 for an overview of plant safety and environmental programs and the resources devoted to them. Visitors are welcome! For details about the 6 p.m. meeting, contact Rod Harley at 281/817-3340. Visit [www.deerparkcac.org](http://www.deerparkcac.org) to read recent meeting summaries, find links to useful resources on emergency communications and the environment, see lists of DPCAC community and plant members, read our mission and purpose statements, and offer input.