

Deer Park Community Advisory Council

www.deerparkcac.org

Meeting Notes Monday, August 27, 2018

The 268th meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, August 27th, 2018 at the Republic Grill. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The June meeting notes were approved without changes.

ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
x	Ruth Boyd	x	Clean Harbors, Bruce Riffel	x	Phillip Barker
	Tim Culp		Delta Companies Group, Frank Ingrassia	x	Corbett Brinly, TCEQ
x	Ken Donnell	x	Dow Chemical Deer Park, Jeff Garry	x	John Collins
x	Bobby Garcia	x	Dow Chemical, Jeff Lichon, rep by Jeff Garry	x	Trilby Cressman, Evonik
	John Garrett	x	Evonik Oil Additives, Jim Bentinck-Smith	x	Butch Cressman
	Sherry Garrison	x	GEO Specialty Chemicals, Chris Miller	x	Rick Deel
x	Tommy Ginn	x	Hexion, Marlene Mercado	x	Beverly Ferguson, US House Dist 36
	Stephen Harrell	x	Intercontinental Terminals, Brent Weber, rep by Carl Holley	x	Scott Jones, Galveston Bay Foundation
x	Robert Hemminger	x	Lubrizol, Chris Hext, rep by Tanya Travis	x	Betty Lemley
x	Cara Herbeck	x	Lubrizol, Tanya Travis	x	George Mueller
x	Steven Horton		Oxy Vinyls Houston Ops, Paul Thomas	x	Stuart Mueller
x	Norma Hysler		Oxy Vinyls VCM, John Abel	x	Rhonda Murgatroyd
	Bill Irwin		Oxy Vinyls PVC/KOH, Scott Halbros	x	Blaine Murphy, GEO Specialty Chem
	Katherine Mitchum	x	Shell Deer Park, Amanda Accardo	x	Sam Pipkin
	Mike Mitchum	x	Shell Deer Park Chemical, Michelle Roberson, rep by Amanda	x	Darrell Schwebel, San Jac Battleground
	Jeffrey Parks	x	Shell Deer Park Refining, Thor Nygaard	x	James Stokes, City of Deer Park
	Ariel Pena		Texas Molecular, Frank Marine	x	Wallace Ward, Native Prairies Assoc
x	Vickey Roberts		Valvoline, Jerry Precise	x	Craig Zimmerman, San Jacinto College
x	Robert Segelquist	x	Vopak Terminal Deer Park, David Carter	x	Don Zuckero
	Andy Smith				
	Charles Thomas		Support Staff		
x	David Wade	x	Diane Sheridan, Facilitator		
x	Ernest Weedon	x	Anja Borski		

Planning for the 2018 Hurricane Season: Municipal, Industrial and Environmental Lessons Learned from Harvey

Robert Hemminger, City of Deer Park Emergency Management Coordinator, was asked to present the city's perspective on what was learned from Harvey and what changes were made in preparing for the 2018 hurricane season.

Over four days, the City of Deer Park received approximately 55 inches of rain, an amount Hemminger said no city is designed to handle. Somehow, the drainage system managed very well, a testament to investments made in drainage infrastructure before the storm. A few city pumps had problems, but a partnership between the city and Shell facilitated borrowing some pumps from Shell to augment the city's infrastructure. That water was transferred to another section of the drainage system that was not as overwhelmed. The city is glad to be participating in the newly reinvigorated Deer Park plant manager outreach group, to continue to talk through issues, solutions and opportunities for collaboration. A consulting company is looking at areas of the city which had flooding problems, and they may pursue FEMA assistance to take on some mitigation projects. The Deer Park Fire Department is in the process of procuring some new response vehicles and repurposing some older vehicles to increase high water response capabilities. Hemminger also touched on city plans to look at the outdoor siren alert/notification system, which is about 30 years old and needs updating to be able to address various threats and hazards, a credentialing system for facility ride out teams to have identification in case of a mandatory evacuation, and successful use of the East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA) Hurricane Status Reporting system for facilities to report their status, location of essential personnel, and more.

Question: Was flooding in Deer Park localized? There were pockets of 4-10 homes flooded in multiple locations around the city – the 300 homes that flooded were not all in one location.

Question: Is there any money coming from bonds, etc. to fix drainage channels? About \$6.5 million is being invested to improve the channel by Walmart.

Plants were asked to share a couple details about how lessons learned from Harvey impacted their hurricane preparations this year.

Clean Harbors: Bruce Riffel said they had no problems and made no major changes to their plan. They have arranged to bring in more diesel pumps to get them back up and running faster in the future.

Dow Chemical: Jeff Garry said their site had hurricane plans but not flood plans. Now they have worked through more possible scenarios and differentiated the plan. They are acquiring their own high water vehicle to facilitate moving people and supplies in and out, and are looking at technologies to help communicate with employees during emergencies.

Evonik: Trilby Cressman said they implemented a texting system to keep personnel informed of site conditions and to receive replies about employee status at home. They reassessed their ride out crew personnel and added an instrument & electrical craftsman to the list, and added some comfort items like air mattresses to their ride-out supplies. They also reassessed their checklists for pre-storm preparations.

GEO Specialty Chemicals: Chris Miller said GEO added additional functions, personnel and supplies for their ride-out crew. They also evaluated and changed procedures to improve the flow of critical information throughout GEO during an event. New procedures ensure critical information is provided to functional areas that need it without excessive burden placed on the team dealing with the event.

Hexion: Marlene Mercado said they added flooding scenarios to their plan, and changed the number and makeup of ride-out crew personnel. They also improved how they deal with communicating with suppliers of utilities and materials for processes critical for operation. Hexion is also using the RemindApp for communication with corporate.

ITC: Carl Holley said they focused on improving timing in their hurricane plans, including when to let personnel go, when to put the ride-out crew in place, how to facilitate swapping ride-out personnel, and improved plans to cope with surge impact from the Ship Channel.

Lubrizol: Tanya Travis said they extended the number of individuals that are able to issue “ring down status reports” to the general plant population, after the one person who was able to perform this function was not able to be reached during Harvey. They also added special consideration to rainfall rates in their plans, similar to wind rates used before, to identify max rainfall triggers that their outfall system can handle in order to trigger a shutdown. They turned their plans into a formalized, interactive electronic file that improves understanding of facility status as needed by decision makers within the company.

OxyVinyls was not able to be present to make a report.

Shell: Thor Nygaard said that lower areas of the refinery are at risk for significant flooding in events like Harvey, and they’re looking at options to improve procedures and hardware to better handle rain water runoff and prevent such flooding in the future. They have adjusted their plans to take into account not only wind rates but also rainfall rates, and adjusted plans and preparations timelines based on what they learned during Harvey.

Texas Molecular: Diane Sheridan read a report from Frank Marine that their facility remained in operation during and after Harvey without any loss of power. They were able to manage the large amounts of water in their tank containment areas, and could serve their clients as soon as they could get to them. They had some difficulty getting operators back after the storm due to unpassable roads. They expanded their planning to include massive rain events, and are adding more food/supplies for workers who may get stranded at the plant.

Valvoline was not present to make a report.

Vopak: David Carter said they added more contractors to their list of resources in case they have trouble reaching one company or the company having problems accessing the facility to bring in water-removal equipment. They also worked with their Harvey ride-out crew personnel to improve conditions on site for future events, adding more food, clothing, toiletries, and means to wash/dry clothes.

Scott Jones, with the Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF), was asked to share information about Harvey impacts and recovery in Galveston Bay, as well as an update on the status of the Coastal Spine approach to surge protection. Jones’ slides are attached for reference.

Water quality monitors at 65 locations around the Bay look for evidence of changes in bacteria levels, salinity, turbidity/debris and transparency in the water. While bacteria levels peaked at very high levels during the week following Harvey, they were back to normal background levels after the first week. Turbidity and transparency, however, took longer to recover. Salinity took the most time to recover. Oysters were hit particularly hard by Harvey, with up to 100% morbidity on some reefs and 30% mortality at best in some areas. Many of the Bay’s animals were pushed outside of their normal range for some time. Most species are coming back and appear to have recovered. Jones stressed the importance of having a healthy system and healthy populations of wildlife in order to weather these kinds of storms. GBF has hosted three big debris cleanups since Harvey, and continues to follow EPA progress on plans to remove toxic waste from the San Jacinto Waste Pits, which is threatened each time a storm like this erodes the protective cap.

The US Army Corps of Engineers is expected to release their Proposed Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement on September 29th. The plan provides five possible alternatives for Coastal Spine protection. Most alternatives include variations of the following features: Environmental gates and transportation gates, a ring levy around the back side of Galveston Island, non-structural mitigation, home raising, buy outs, etc. on the west side of the Bay. The public will have 75 days to provide comments on the plan. The final report is expected in 2021, and then funding will be the next step. Estimates to pay for the proposed projects range from 6-12 billion dollars, plus annual maintenance of \$30-75 million, for which a taxing district would have to be approved.

Question: Did turbidity after Harvey impact the Seagrass? There was less inflow in West Bay where the majority of remaining seagrass beds are, so they seem to have fared well post-Harvey.

Question: Any theory on why bacteria was so high in some areas, like Christmas Bay? Higher bacteria levels in this area are likely due to agriculture in the area, including runoff from areas with livestock.

Question: Will proposed levees (associated with the coastal spine projects) allow for vehicle traffic? While possible, we have not heard of plans to allow vehicle traffic. Contending with shipping gates would be challenging.

Updates

Ozone Exceedance Days:

Corbett Brinley reported that there had been 31 8-hour 71ppb ozone exceedance days in Houston for the year, and six 8-hour 71ppb exceedances in Deer Park. There were two 1-hour, 125ppb exceedances in the Houston region (one each in July and August). Neither were in Deer Park.

Level 3 (Warning) or Level 2 (Watch) Incidents

Chris Miller with GEO reported a Level 2 Watch incident on June 24th, when an operator was exposed to and overcome by hydrogen cyanide. The city responded in less than 5 minutes, an antidote was administered, and the employee fully recovered. They found it to be a small incident contained on site, with approximately 3 pounds of material spilled. The all clear was issued soon after the Level 2 was announced.

Question of the Month: Clean Harbors

“What is a characteristic hazardous waste?” was presented by Bruce Riffel of Shell.

When determining if a waste is hazardous the first thing to look for is its characteristics. This is a solid waste which exhibits one of the following:

D001- Ignitability or something flammable

D002- Corrosivity or something that can rust or decompose

D003- Reactivity or something explosive

D004-Toxicity or something poisonous.

See www.deerparkcac.org for questions from past meetings.

Written Facility Updates (Covering period from January – August 2018):

- **Clean Harbors, LLC.** Riffel reported one lost time accident this year to date. An employee fell on stairs and broke his knee. A file review by TCEQ generated a Notice of Deficiency, but all items have been addressed and it should be cleared soon. The shredder project previously reported is under construction and should be completed in the next 30 days. The site is hiring 18 people for the new shredder area.

- **Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site** Thor Nygaard reported they have had 8 OSHA recordable injuries to date this year. Three were Shell employees and five were contractors. They have had 6 API Tier 1 events and 5 API Tier 2 events through July. The multi-year asset rejuvenation program to address asset integrity continues to progress, and by year-end employees will be provided additional training in the nine behaviors that have been linked to past incidents called Process Safety Fundamentals. The chemical plant and refinery combined had 11 reportable air emission events for the reporting period, one reportable water violation, and 16 other water permit violations. They also received one Notice of Enforcement and four Notices of Violation from the TCEQ and TGLO for alleged violations associated with earlier releases or program inspections. Shell started the year with a January crude unit outage and freeze event, continued with three major turnarounds, idled a unit in their chemical plant, and underwent a maintenance effort that required the bulk of the refinery to be shut down for just under a month. They are well positioned to run reliably through the remainder of the year and up until their “Big Block” turnaround in 2019. Shell Oil Company and PMI have agreed to an extension of Maya supply for the Deer Park refinery, and to an extension of the Deer Park Refining Limited Partnership to 2033.

Other Plant Updates:

Jeff Garry with Dow announced that DPCAC member Jeff Lichon is assuming a broader role within the company and will attend fewer meetings moving forward. His replacement is Whitney Bolger. Dow is also preparing for a normal turnaround to being in about one month, expecting about 2,000 extra contractors on site. They are working to spread out traffic in and out of the plant to lessen the impact on roads around the facility.

Other Announcements

Diane Sheridan reminded everyone that the www.deerparkcac.org website is being rebuilt. The new and improved site should be launched in September.

Plans for Future Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held at the Republic Grill. Food service begins at 5:45 and business at 6:00. We adjourn no later than 8:30.

*Monday, September 24, 2018 – **Annual Report on Emissions from DPCAC Plants***

Meeting hosted by Hexion

Written updates to be provided by GEO Specialty Chemicals, Delta Companies Group, and Dow

Dates for 2018 – all Mondays

Jan. 22

Feb. 26

Mar. 26

Apr. 23

June 4 (delayed due to Memorial Day)

No end of June meeting

No July meeting

Aug. 27

Sept. 24

Oct. 22

Nov. 26 (after Thanksgiving)

no December

Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Input on Hurricane Planning

August 27, 2018

1. Best thing(s) you heard, if any?
 - High water vehicles
 - Washer & dryer for ride-out crews
 - Communicate/employees
 - Hazardous waste criteria

2. Concerns, if any?
 - More pumps, but where going to pump water to?
 - City re-set pumps – what was cause of need to re-set?
 - Work on packaging debris after high water events
 - Spine dike to protect coast/Galveston Bay to be passed
 - 75 day public comment window
 - Cost estimate \$6-16 billion - competition for federal gov't

3. Need more info on anything?

4. Anything else?
 - Food was ok – nice dessert!