



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Hurricane Planning and the Health of Galveston Bay after Harvey Addressed at Deer Park CAC Meeting

A year after Hurricane Harvey, Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) members wanted to hear how the storm affected municipal and industrial hurricane planning for 2018 as well as its impacts on Galveston Bay. Robert Hemminger, City of Deer Park Emergency Management Coordinator, said investments in drainage over the long term paid off when the 55 inches of rain over four days resulted in less flooding than during Tropical Storm Allison. The city has engaged a consultant to determine how best to address drainage problems that did occur.

When DPCAC plants described changes made to their hurricane plans this year, many said plans will now focus on flooding, not just wind. Plants also are updating how they communicate with employees in multi-day events and how best to equip ride out crews that may stay at the plant during a storm for more than a few days.

Scott Jones of Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) showed satellite images of Galveston Bay before and after Harvey to reveal how floodwaters carried sediment and debris to the bays. GBF sampled water at 65 locations after Harvey and analyzed it for fecal bacteria, salinity, and turbidity/debris. Bacteria levels were high right after Harvey but returned to normal within weeks, as did the clearness of the water in most cases. But floodwaters made the bay water less salty, which impacts the growth and development of oysters and dolphins because it allows some pathogens to survive that harm the marine creatures. Toxicity was an issue at the San Jacinto Superfund Site where dioxin levels in sediment after the storm were significantly higher than standards.

Asked about the status of hurricane surge suppression proposals, Jones said the Army Corps of Engineers' Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study has looked at 5 options and expects to issue recommendations in the coming weeks and schedule meetings where the public may review plans and voice opinions.

DPCAC will meet on Monday, September 24 for the Annual Report on Emissions from DPCAC plants. If you would like an invitation to attend one of the 6 p.m. meetings, contact a member or email 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 below. They cover approximately 8 months, from January to August 2018.

Clean Harbors Deer Park LLC

Clean Harbors' Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste permit was renewed. Construction of a shredder is nearing completion. It will be used to shred defective airbags. Clean Harbors is hiring workers for this effort. The facility is seeking a permit modification to build an additional drum storage area.

"Clean Harbors is a RCRA and 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 DEA, DHS, Homeland Security and various police forces."

Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site

Shell Deer Park recently launched its social media channels on Twitter and Facebook @ShellDeerPark. The facility is working with the San Jacinto History Museum and the City of Deer Park and others on a guest exhibit at the museum called "Big Energy: A Texas Tale of People Powering Progress." (NOTE: Deer Park CAC will be represented in the exhibit as the local organization that has institutionalized routine dialogue between community and industry around plant-related issues.)

"Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site is a refinery and chemical plant that produces fuels and base chemicals that go into thousands of consumer products."