Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Deer Park CAC Receives Annual Report on Plant Emissions

The Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) Annual Report on Air Emissions is a compilation of data from member plants that file an Emissions Inventory with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and/or a Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) with the US Environmental Protection Agency. Data from 2017, covering the 14 DPCAC plants, showed reductions in nitrogen oxides (NOx) and benzene. Though some plants saw emissions decline, overall there were increases in volatile organic compounds (VOCs), sulfur oxides, total suspended particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and 1,3-butadiene. Major reasons for the increases included longer operating hours; flaring before and after maintenance turnarounds and Hurricane Harvey; handling different products, and chemical production process upsets. Decreases came primarily from operating fewer hours during maintenance turnarounds. Overall, since 1987, reported Toxics Release Inventory releases to air have declined 83% while the number of DPCAC plants has grown from 9 to 14.

Comparisons to state and county data from other facilities filing the emissions inventory and TRI show that 4.1 million pounds of NOx emissions from DPCAC plants represent 14% of the county inventory in 2016 and less than 1% of NOx emissions statewide that year. DPCAC's 4.3 million pounds of VOC emissions represent 14% of VOC emissions from major industrial facilities in Harris County and 2.4% of VOCs reported by major industry statewide. The two inventories cover only industrial facilities. Air emissions also come from on-road and off-road transportation, area sources like smaller businesses, and biogenic sources like trees.

DPCAC will meet on Monday, October 22 for updates from PortHouston on expansion at the Barbours Cut Terminal and on dredging. If you would like an invitation to attend one of the 6:00 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 7 months, from February to September 2018.

Dow Chemical Company – Deer Park Operations

The plant is still at a milestone record number of days (more than 3 years) without an injury severe enough that it may have a lasting impact on an individual. From the end of September through mid-November, the Deer Park plant will be conducting a large planned maintenance turnaround that will bring additional contractors to the site.

> "The primary products produced in the Dow Deer Park plant are acrylates, methacrylates and Primene®. These products are used in a variety of end-use applications including paints, plastics, disposable diapers, fuel additives, antioxidants, caulks and much more. The primary products produced at Dow Lone Star are water-based emulsions which are used in many products such as paint, adhesives, sealants and paper."

GEO Specialty Chemicals, Inc.

GEO Specialty Chemicals has had no reportable spills or air release events since prior to 11-1-05, when GEO bought the plant. An injury that required medical treatment occurred in June. On the Thursday after the DPCAC meeting, the plant held an annual emergency response drill, using a scenario similar to the situation when the injury occurred.

> "The GEO Specialty Chemicals, Deer Park Facility is a specialty chemical manufacturing site producing three primary products: Glycine, DAXAD® dispersing agents, and poly-aluminum chloride (PAC) water treatment chemicals. Glycine is the simplest, naturally occurring amino acid. It is used in a variety of applications in the food industry and in pet foods as a flavor enhancer. It also has several pharmaceutical, agricultural, and personal care applications. DAXAD® is a Naphthalene Sulfonate dispersant agent used in a number of industries. Applications include concrete mixes, wallboard, rubber manufacturing, leather dyes, paper and paint manufacturing, and agricultural products. PAC products are water treatment chemicals used for the treatment of potable water. The proven benefits of PAC include reducing overall water treatment costs when compared to traditional programs and effectively removing water turbidity, color, heavy metals and trace organic compounds."