



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Port of Houston Authority Provides Update to DPCAC

The Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) recently invited Mark Vincent, Channel Development Director for the Port of Houston Authority, to update them on expansion at the Barbours Cut Terminal and dredging along the Houston Ship Channel.

Vincent said Port Houston is the busiest waterway in the nation and, several years ago, was named North America's "irreplaceable port" by a port auditing association. Containerized cargo is the port's fastest growing business. Vincent said that the port serves 142 million consumers within 1000 miles of Houston, not just area residents and businesses. Improvements to the port are necessary for safety and maintenance as well as to accommodate the bigger ships used today and the growth in shipping that comes with industrial expansion and a growing population.

Asking about two of the port's terminals, DPCAC members learned that the 40-year-old Barbours Cut Terminal is being modernized with deeper channels, redesigned wharf space, heavier pavement, and new cranes, cameras, scales, and scanners. Curious about the cruise facility at the Bayport Terminal, members learned that it has been turned into a major auto terminal.

Houston Ship Channel is narrow, especially the upper part. The port is seeking to widen the channel so two-way traffic with larger ships can maneuver safely. The port is still dredging sediments that washed into the ship channel with Harvey's floodwaters and the previous few floods. With sediment buildup, the channel is not as deep as needed, especially for the ships that carry the very large, heavy cargo known as break bulk. Instead of carrying its usual load in one visit to the port, a ship may have to make two trips because sediments have made part of the channel more shallow than usual.

DPCAC members appreciated the explanations of the port's significance to the economy and the update on dredging and terminal changes. Vincent's slides are attached.

DPCAC will meet on Monday, November 29 to allow a group of Deer Park High School students to ask questions of Deer Park chemical facility managers and to let DPCAC learn how students feel about jobs in local industry. 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.