



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Deer Park High School Students Talk with DPCAC Plant Managers

Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) members were enlightened at their recent meeting by listening to 20 Deer Park High School students ask DPCAC petrochemical facility managers about their jobs and workplace conditions. Following that, plant managers asked students what it would take to interest them in an industry career and what may hold students back from considering such work. Students from science, math, and career and technology classes submitted more than 300 questions and responses to these questions before the meeting, providing industry with valuable, unfiltered feedback about student views of industry.

Reporting their small group discussion to the full group, students were glad to hear that safety is a top priority; some feared it might not be. They learned that there are many different kinds of jobs in plants, not just operator and engineering jobs but also IT, human resources, finance, and environmental work. They heard that there is a growing number of women in the chemical industry workforce and that women can qualify for any job. Two of the plant managers at the meeting are women.

Students asked plant representatives what sparked their interest in their job and what path took them to the work they do today. They heard that both education and experience are important and that there are opportunities to advance and also to change the kind of work you do. Some were impressed that a job in Deer Park might provide travel opportunities and even a chance to work in another country.

Plant managers said that high school provides an important base to further education. Education will help you get a job that you want but how well you perform is up to you. Whatever job you do, communication skills are key to success.

Students uniformly said they would like more information about plants and the opportunities for work in the petrochemical industry. They suggested presentations, internships, and open houses. DPCAC recommended www.petrochemworks.com as a resource for learning about industry jobs and what it takes to get them. The site will ask you about your interests and skills and then match you with jobs that might interest you. Job openings are also posted on this free resource.

DPCAC will meet next on Monday, January 28, 2019 for the Annual State of the Plants Report. If you would like an invitation to attend one of the 6:00 p.m. DPCAC meetings, contact a member or email the DPCAC facilitator at info@deerparkcac.org.

Visit the **newly updated** 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 7 months, from April to November 2018.

Hexion, Inc.

There were no reportable quantity spills or releases in this reporting period and 4 injuries (2 employee and 2 contractor). The site is a sponsor of the San Jacinto Battle Reenactment, the Deer Park Education Foundation “Strides for Schools” Fun Run, and the DPHS Academic Honors Dinner.

“Products produced at the Deer Park Hexion plant include Bisphenol Acetone (BPA) and various grades of liquid and solid epoxy resin. BPA’s primary use is as a feedstock for epoxy resin and polycarbonate production. Primary uses for epoxy resin include various protective coatings applications in the construction, automotive and electronics industries and as a binder in a wide range of composite applications.”

Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC)

There have not been any OSHA recordable injuries, the kind that require a doctor’s intervention, since August 31, 2016. ITC began working in January 2017 to achieve OSHA Voluntary Protection Program recognition and is in the process of finalizing its application for the safety program.

“Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) is a for-hire bulk storage facility located on the Houston Ship Channel in Deer Park, Texas. The facility covers 265 acres and has a total storage capacity of over 13,058,136 barrels in 242 storage tanks. The facility is served by vessel, barge, rail, tank truck, and pipeline modes. ITC presently employs 350.”

The Lubrizol Corporation

The OSHA recordable injury rate as of 11-19-18 is 0.66. (A rate of 1.00 equals one injury among 100 workers in a 12-month period.) The plant continues to see improvements from its work on safety culture by focusing on safety and health practices and procedures, training, and hazard recognition. A new polymer unit is on target for startup in April.

“Lubrizol produces specialty chemicals (lubricant additives) used in motor oils, gear oils, automatic transmission fluids and greases to improve their performance. Our customers include Castrol, Chevron, Citgo, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Imperial Oil, Mobil, Shell, Total, Valvoline and many, many others. When you go into your local Auto Zone or other auto supply store and look at the many rows of motor oils, automatic transmission fluids, gear oils and greases, our products are in a good many of the bottles.”