



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 2018, covering the 14 DPCAC plants, showed reductions in volatile organic compounds (VOCs), sulfur oxides (SOx), total suspended particulate matter, TRI releases to air, benzene, and 1-3, butadiene. There were overall increases in nitrogen oxides (NOx) and carbon monoxide.

The main reasons for the decreases in emissions were returning to routine operations in 2018 compared to Hurricane Harvey in 2017, improved reliability of operations, upgrading a cooling tower, fewer emissions events, and fewer fugitive leaks from equipment like valves and flanges. Some plants saw increases in flaring and others had less flaring. Variation in the products stored at terminals causes numbers to change from year to year. Changes in the way emissions are calculated also caused some numbers to change. Overall, since 1987, reported Toxics Release Inventory releases to air have declined 87% while the number of DPCAC plants has grown from 9 to 14.

In 2017, 1963 facilities filed an emissions inventory in Texas. Of them, 249 were in Harris County and 11 in Deer Park CAC. The DPCAC plants generated 1% of the NOx emissions and 2% of the VOCs across the state. They reported releasing 14% of the NOx and 14% of the VOCs in Harris County.

DPCAC will meet on Monday, October 28 for an update on coastal protection plans from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas General Land Office. 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 above. The updates below cover February – August 2019.

Clean Harbors Deer Park

Four lost-time injuries since February. Received a modification for the hazardous waste permit to allow more incineration of material directly from a trailer. No notices of violation of permits.

“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, and various police forces.”

Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site

One reportable emission event since January for the chemical plant and refinery combined. Five water permit violations. Eleven OSHA recordable injuries during 5.9 million hours of work. Fewer process safety events than in 2018.

“Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site is a fully-integrated refinery and chemical plant with ~1,500 employees and ~1,200 contractors working to produce fuels and base chemicals that go into thousands of consumer products. Shell is proud to call Deer Park home since 1929 and our top priority is operating in a safe and environmentally sound manner. We welcome feedback from our community and a member of our site can be reached at any time by calling our community hotline: 713-246-7301. Additionally, we invite the community to engage with us on social media @ShellDeerPark on Facebook and Twitter.”