



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Monday, October 28, 2019

Coastal Protection Update Presented to DPCAC

Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) members were joined by members of the Houston, Seashore, and Baytown Community Advisory Panels for an update in late October on the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas General Land Office. The federal and state agencies are studying the feasibility of construction projects, like barriers, to manage risks associated with hurricanes as well as projects to restore ecosystems, which may buffer the impacts of coastal storms. This study does not look for solutions to heavy rains from tropical storms like Harvey and Imelda, though it does consider the impact of inland flooding on barriers like high dunes and surge gates. A required Environmental Impact Assessment is looking at the costs and benefits of the options and must balance “engineering soundness, environmental acceptability, and economic justification.”

An initial proposal was modified after public review and comment. A second version of the plan will be released for public review and comment before it is finalized in 2021. The presentation to DPCAC has been posted at www.deerparkcac.org. The Corps and the General Land Office are providing information for the public in formal hearings and informal open houses as well as social media, email, newsletters and a community working group. Details may be found at www.coastalstudy.texas.gov as well as on Facebook and Twitter @coastaltxstudy

DPCAC will meet on Monday, December 2 for an update on road construction, including Beltway 8 and the Houston Ship Channel Bridge; State Highways 225 and 146; and major county roads and the Washburn Tunnel. If you would like an invitation to attend the 6:00 p.m. meeting, 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 March – October 2019.

Dow – Deer Park Operations

EPA conducted a Risk Management Plan inspection and a Water inspection during the reporting period. One reportable quantity release during a rough weather event. Three injuries during reporting period. Community projects include partnering with Deer Park Education Foundation on STEM education programs for 2020. STEM means Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

“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.

No reportable environmental spills or air releases during reporting period. One recordable injury. Passed annual mechanical integrity testing of on-site deepwells, with TCEQ present during testing of two wells.

“The GEO Specialty Chemicals, Deer Park Facility is a specialty chemicals 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. “