



## Deer Park Community Advisory Council

### San Jacinto College Industry-Related Courses and Financial Support Described to Deer Park Community Advisory Council

**April 27, 2020**

For the first time in its 30-year history, the Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) met by video and audio rather than in person. Participants heard jR Ragaisis, Dean of Business & Technology at San Jacinto College's Central Campus and DPCAC member, describe the college's programs geared toward the petrochemical industry. Ragaisis also listed financial and other resources available to support students. His slides are posted with this meeting summary.

The college's new LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology (CPET), which many DPCAC members visited in January, offers programs in process technology; instrumentation; environmental health and safety; and industrial technology (welding, inspection, and electrical). They also conduct courses for current industry workers seeking to upgrade their skills.

The college has developed 4 core areas of resources to support student success: *Personal Support* (meals, clothing, housing), *Student Support* (career, advising), *Financial* (scholarships, financial aid, child care) and *Instructional* (success centers, online tutoring). The CPET program also features some internships.

Most classes at CPET have been extended due to COVID-19 school closures and are being taught online. Those with significant hands-on components, such as welding, must be held in person. CPET is working on how to safely bring back students to complete such courses.

Read about future DPCAC meetings and see summaries of our most recent meetings at [www.deerparkcac.org](http://www.deerparkcac.org).

## 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 October 2019 – April 2020.

## **Dow – Deer Park Operations**

Dow Deer Park Operations reported no spills, releases or permit exceedances during the reporting period. The site received an Agreed Order on October 24, 2019 from the TCEQ for three violations of the Texas Health and Safety Code, for which the site has implemented corrective actions. The site experienced 5 injuries during this reporting period.

“Dow Deer Park’s primary products 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 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 OSHA recordables to date in 2020, no reportable spills for the reporting period, and no reportable air releases since November 2018. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the site submitted a renewal application for its Title V Air Quality permit to TCEQ. On December 12, 2019, the facility was designated a Public Water System (Non-Transient Non-Community/ NTNC). As of April 1, 2020, GEO and Gulbrandsen have formed a water treatment chemicals joint venture company named G2O Technologies, LLC.

“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.”