

# Deer Park Community Advisory Council

[www.deerparkcac.org](http://www.deerparkcac.org)

## Meeting Notes Monday, June 1, 2020

The 284<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, via Zoom video conferencing. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The April 2020 meeting notes were approved without changes.

### ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
x	Ruth Boyd		<b>Clean Harbors</b> , Bruce Riffel	x	Richard Bergeron, OxyVinyls
	Ken Donnell	x	<b>Dow Chemical Deer Park</b> , Jeff Garry, rep by Brooke Hrach	x	John Collins
	Beverly Ferguson	x	<b>Dow Chemical</b> , Whitney Bolger, rep by Brooke Hrach	x	Karen Lewis-Holmes, TCEQ
	Bobby Garcia	x	<b>Evonik Oil Additives</b> , Jim Bentinck-Smith, rep by Trilby Cressman	x	Cory Sledge, ITC
x	Sherry Garrison	x	<b>GEO Specialty Chemicals</b> , Steve Outlaw	x	Wallace Ward
	Tommy Ginn	x	<b>Hexion</b> , Marlene Mercado	x	Blake White, HCOHSEM
	Stephen Harrell	x	<b>Intercontinental Terminals</b> , David Wascome, rep by Carl Holley		
	Robert Hemminger	x	<b>Lubrizol</b> , Sarah Arroyo, rep by Doug Moore		
	Cara Herbeck	x	<b>Lubrizol</b> , Tanya Travis, rep by Doug Moore		
x	Steven Horton	x	<b>Oxy Vinyls VCM</b> , Claudia O'Rourke		
	Norma Hysler	x	<b>Oxy Vinyls PVC/KOH</b> , Craig Horak		
	Bill Irwin	x	<b>Shell Deer Park</b> , Stephanie Meadows, rep by Thor Nygaard		
	Katherine Mitchum	x	<b>Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site</b> , Thor Nygaard		
	Mike Mitchum	x	<b>Texas Molecular</b> , Frank Marine		
x	James Ragaisis	x	<b>Valvoline</b> , Robert Shelton		
	Ariel Pena	x	<b>Vopak Terminal Deer Park</b> , Paul Kaners		
	Vickey Roberts				
	Robert Segelquist				
	Andy Smith				
	Charles Thomas		<b>Support Staff</b>		
x	David Wade	x	Diane Sheridan, Facilitator		
	Ernest Weedon	x	Anja Borski, Secretary		

## **An Interim Report: COVID Questions for Plants and Lessons Learned So Far**

DPCAC facilities were asked to weigh in on various aspects of operations as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic. For questions 2-7 below, we have summarized input received during the discussion. If two or more plants shared common themes, those will be found in bold near the top of the list.

1. Plants have been deemed essential businesses. What does your plant make or do that makes it necessary for you to keep operating during stay-at-home orders?
  - OxyVinyls – Produces materials used in construction, water piping, medical applications including blood bags, IV tubing, water treatment chemicals and disinfectants.
  - Shell – Refines a variety of fuels for road, marine and air transportation, as well as chemicals used in hand sanitizers and other personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Texas Molecular – Essential to the operation of the chemical industry, receiving hazardous waste water and deep welling it at the site in Deer Park.
  - Valvoline – Produces motor oil for essential transportation activities.
  - Vopak – Product storage for chemical industry, including materials that go into the production of sanitizers, PPE, fuels and more.
  - Dow – Manufactures unique monomers used in the production of acrylic sheets and shields being used to protect workers. Also vital to the diaper, food packaging and hand sanitizer industries.
  - Evonik – Additives for motor oils, including hydraulic equipment like agricultural equipment vital to the food supply chain.
  - GEO Specialty Chemicals – Produces chemicals vital to pharmaceuticals like acetaminophen and water treatment products. Provides the City of Houston with chemicals for water treatment.
  - Hexion – Manufacturer of solid and liquid resins used in coatings, including food packaging, aerospace, automotive, and oil and gas.
  - ITC – Bulk liquid storage for local facilities.
  - Lubrizol – Produces oil additives needed by transportation, including first responders, as well as chemicals for hand sanitizers, medical tubing and face shields.
2. Is your plant producing or doing anything related to COVID-19 that is in high demand; e.g. *ingredients* for hand sanitizer, disinfectants, face shields or masks or mass storage, etc.?
  - **Hand sanitizer**
  - **Plexiglass shields**
  - **PPE**
  - **Disinfectant**
  - Pharmaceuticals
  - Hand soap
  - Acetone
  - Ethylene for detergents
3. Has your plant or your corporation done something special to help communities here or elsewhere cope with the consequences of COVID-19 and stay-at-home orders?
  - **Participating in Deer Park Education Foundation Strides for Schools Virtual Fun Run**
  - **Food bank donations (local and nationally)**
  - **Donation of PPE and sanitizer to Hospitals, First Responders**
  - Food program to aid people in Brazil
  - Hygiene product supply drive for Boys and Girls Club in La Porte

- Shared publicly their corporate Return to Workplace plan, so other companies and businesses can use it as a reference or guide when developing their own plans.
  - Offering employees remote working and virtual volunteerism, such as providing interactions with nursing home residents
4. Have you received requests from local government or school districts, etc. for hand sanitizers or other supplies that will be needed as in-person school and other community activities resume?
- Shell has donated hand sanitizer to the OEM in Deer Park, La Porte and Pasadena, and is in the process of organizing a donation of PPE (goggles, face shields and Tyvek suits) to the same entities.
  - Lubrizol has donated hand sanitizer to the Crosby EMS and is working with a local little league on a sanitizer donation for their upcoming season.
5. As part of hurricane response, plants often assist employees and their families in some way. As a result of COVID-19, is your plant doing anything specific to support employees and their families?
- **Adjustments to leave policies for those with childcare or other dependent care needs**
  - **Enabled remote work technologies**
  - **Care packages to employees**
  - Altered co-op programs, sites, and projects to allow them to continue
  - Allowed employees to take loans against their 401(k)
  - Vacation sell-back
  - Flex work schedules
6. Looking at the changes your plant has made to keep workers safe from COVID-19 during the last couple months, what do you expect will change as things open up, and what practices will you maintain? For example, will you continue to have workers telecommute? Will you manage shift change the way you have this spring vs previously? Will you continue to require social distancing or masks? (Within these responses, plants essentially covered a 7<sup>th</sup> question about preparing for a potential future COVID-19 flareup.)
- **Non-essential personnel beginning to return to some work sites** (some started a couple weeks ago, some starting in a couple weeks from now)
  - **Rotating/staggered schedules**
  - **Social distancing, temperature taking, sanitizer stations, masks, enhanced cleaning initiatives**
  - **Encouraging telecommuting**
  - **Going totally paperless/digital**
  - Many of these efforts will remain in place through the year/for the foreseeable future. Some plants even specified they expected these measures would be in place until a vaccine is available.
  - Contactless deliveries
  - More trainings being offered virtually
  - Drones for some inspection activities

Question: Has your plant experienced any shortages in things you need to manufacture your products?

- Facilities have faced challenges similar to those seen by the public concerning shortages of sanitizer, PPE, etc., so many companies are making it themselves. For a period of time, one facility was at risk of shutting down a unit due to the shortage of isopropyl alcohol, but they were able to obtain what they needed before having to shut down.

## Updates

### Question of the Month

This month's question will be based on Question 1 above. See [www.deerparkcac.org](http://www.deerparkcac.org) for this and the answer to questions from past meetings.

### Level 2 Watches or Level 3 Warnings

None

### Written Facility Updates

OxyVinyls Deer Park PVC/KOH reported two environmental incidents of vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) releases greater than Reportable Quantity (RQ) during the reporting period, from November 1, 2019 to May 28, 2020. The Deer Park VCM site reported two environmental incidents of ethylene release greater than RQ during the same period. The PVC/KOH site experienced 1 injury during this reporting period. The VCM site experienced no recordable incidents and celebrated seven years without a recordable safety incident on July 13, 2019.

Texas Molecular, also referred to as TM Deer Park Services (TMDP), had no reportable spills for the reporting period of December 3, 2019 through June 1, 2020. The site has gone 5,346 days without a lost time accident. The Total Recordable Incident Rate (TRIR) was 0 for 2019.

### Ozone Exceedance Days

TCEQ's Karen Lewis-Holmes reported there have been 6 days to date in 2020 when the Houston region exceeded the 8-hour standard. One of those 8-hour exceedances was in Deer Park.

### Community Updates

David Wade, Industrial Liaison with Harris County OHS&EM, shared that OEM remains at a Level 1 Activation for Covid-19, and anticipates an activation later this week for the tropical weather in the Gulf of Mexico. He encouraged everyone to review their Hurricane Preparedness plans and supplies, with the official start of hurricane season. Blake White has joined the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management as a second Industrial Liaison.

### Plans for Future Meetings

Until DPCAC decides otherwise, the group will meet by Zoom videoconference from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. To be determined is whether the postponed 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet will take place September 28.

**MONDAY, August 24<sup>th</sup> – Update from PortHouston on Plans for Deepening and Widening of the Houston Ship Channel**

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### **Dates for 2020 – all Mondays**

Jan. 27  
Feb. 24  
Mar. 23  
Apr. 27  
June 1 (delayed due to Memorial Day)

No end of June meeting  
No July meeting  
Aug. 24  
Sept. 28  
Oct. 26

Nov. 30 (delayed due to Thanksgiving)  
no late December