



## Deer Park Community Advisory Council

### DPCAC Learns Why Deer Park Plants Are Essential Businesses

June 1, 2020

When stay-at-home orders were issued in March, Deer Park's chemical plants, refinery, and related businesses continued to operate because the chemical business is deemed a Critical Infrastructure Sector by the US Department of Homeland Security. At an early June video meeting, Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) community members asked each member plant to explain *why* its work is essential.

- 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 – Receives and deepwells hazardous wastewater from industry.
- Valvoline – Produces motor oil for essential transportation activities.
- Vopak – Stores products for the 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 – Makes additives for motor oils used in 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 – Manufactures solid and liquid resins used in coatings, including food packaging, aerospace, automotive, and oil and gas.
- ITC – Provides bulk liquid storage for local facilities.
- Lubrizol – Produces oil additives needed for transportation, including first responders, as well as chemicals for hand sanitizers, medical tubing, and face shields.

Asked if Deer Park plants are making things in high demand due to COVID-19, several plants mentioned making the ingredients or materials for hand sanitizer, Plexiglass shields, personal protective equipment, disinfectant, pharmaceuticals, hand soap, acetone, and ethylene for detergents.

Read about DPCAC meetings and see summaries of our most recent presentations 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 November 2019 – May 2020.*

### **OxyVinyls – Deer Park PVC/KOH and Deer Park VCM Sites**

Between November 1, 2019 and May 28, 2020, the Polyvinyl Chloride/Potassium Hydroxide (PVC/KOH) plant had two reportable environmental events and one recordable injury. The Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM) plant had one reportable environmental event due to a total site power failure. It celebrated 7 years last July without a recordable injury.

“OxyVinyls is proud to be part of the critical infrastructure of the United States, providing key chemicals for a variety of life-enhancing products. OxyVinyls manufactures polyvinyl chloride (PVC) resins, vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) and its precursor ethylene dichloride (EDC). Based on data from industry trade publications, OxyVinyls is the largest VCM producer and the third-largest PVC supplier in the United States. PVC resins are used in a wide variety of products, including essential medical supplies such as tubing and blood bags, PVC piping, construction materials (e.g., vinyl siding, windows and doors, fences, and decks), electrical insulation and automotive products. OxyVinyls also licenses technology for the production of EDC and VCM.”

### **Texas Molecular (TM Deer Park Services)**

Between December 3, 2019 and June 1, 2020, Texas Molecular had no reportable spills or releases and no recordable injuries. Its Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) compliance rating improved to 0. Ratings of 0 to 0.1 are considered high performance; those 0.1 to 55 are satisfactory performance, and scores over 55 are unsatisfactory.

“TM Deer Park Services LLC (TMDP) provides commercial wastewater services to a variety of industries including chemical manufacturing, petroleum refining, metal galvanizing, and landfills. TMDP has three Class 1 Hazardous injection wells with a Federal EPA No Migration Petition.”