



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

August 24, 2020 Meeting

Port Houston Introduces DPCAC to Expansion Project

Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) met by Zoom videoconference in late August for an introduction to, and overview of, Port Houston's expansion of the Houston Ship Channel. Deer Parkers interested in Project 11, called that because it is the port's 11th expansion since it opened in 1914, will find the presentation posted on DPCAC's website at www.deerparkcac.org. The port is providing more detailed information at www.expandthehoustonschipchannel.com.

Port Houston manages 8 public terminals and serves as the non-federal sponsor of the Houston Ship Channel, which speaker Richard Ruchhoeft described as the nation's busiest waterway. Ruchhoeft, the Channel Development Project Manager for Port Houston, reminded DPCAC that there are nearly 200 private facilities in addition to the 8 public terminals. Some of them are operated by DPCAC plants.

Project 11 will widen the Houston Ship Channel to make it more efficient and safer and to assure space for two-way ship traffic. Project 11 plans also include bird islands, oyster reefs, and marshes, and also should improve air quality.

Read about DPCAC meetings and see summaries of our most recent presentations at 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 January – August 2020.

Hexion Inc.

No spills or releases above a reportable quantity during the reporting period. Received Hexion Gold Environmental Health and Safety Award for safety performance in 2019. One recordable injury in April. Continue to operate during COVID pandemic as an essential service.

“Products produced at Hexion Deer Park include Bisphenol Acetone (BPA) and various grades of liquid and solid epoxy resin. BPA’s primary use is as a feedstock for epoxy resin and polycarbonate production. Primary uses for epoxy resin include various protective coatings applications in the construction, automotive and electronics industries and as a binder in a wide range of composite applications”

Intercontinental Terminals Company

Three air releases of a reportable quantity since February. Soil sampling, soil analysis, and remediation planning related to the March 2019 incident at the “2nd 80s” site are underway. One OSHA recordable injury in this period. Hired a Chief Compliance Officer with responsibility for providing all leadership, direction, and integration of all compliance activities at ITC.

“Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) is a for-hire bulk storage facility located on the Houston Ship Channel in Deer Park, Texas. The facility covers 265 acres and has a total storage capacity of over 11,858,136 barrels in 226 storage tanks. The facility is served by vessel, barge, rail, tank truck, and pipeline modes. ITC presently employs 318 at the Deer Park terminal.”

The Lubrizol Corporation

One recordable injury during the reporting period. The year-to-date OSHA recordable rate as of August 19, 2020 was 0.23, the best incident rate on record for the Lubrizol Deer Park plant. No Level 3 Warning or Level 2 Watch events during the reporting period. Two reportable quantity releases.

“Lubrizol produces specialty chemicals (lubricant additives) used in motor oils, gear oils, automatic transmission fluids and greases to improve their performance. Our customers include Castrol, Chevron, Citgo, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Imperial Oil, Mobil, Shell, Total, Valvoline and many, many others. When you go into your local Auto Zone or other auto supply store and look at the many rows of motor oils, automatic transmission fluids, gear oils and greases, our products are in a good many of the bottles.”

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