

# Deer Park Community Advisory Council

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

## Meeting Notes Monday, September 28, 2020

The 286<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via Zoom video conferencing. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The August 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	John Collins
x	Steve Corry	x	<b>Dow Chemical Deer Park</b> , David Herrington, rep by Brooke Hrach	x	Marla Endieveri
x	Ken Donnell	x	<b>Dow Chemical</b> , Whitney Bolger, rep by Brooke Hrach	x	Betty Lemley
	Beverly Ferguson	x	<b>Evonik Oil Additives</b> , Jim Bentinck-Smith	x	Karen Lewis-Holmes, TCEQ
	Bobby Garcia	x	<b>GEO Specialty Chemicals</b> , Steve Outlaw	x	Frank Marine, Texas Molecular
x	Sherry Garrison	x	<b>Hexion</b> , Marlene Mercado	x	Mark Moeller, Valvoline
x	Tommy Ginn	x	<b>Intercontinental Terminals</b> , David Wascome, rep by Carl Holley	x	Stuart Mueller, HCPC
	Robert Hemminger	x	<b>Lubrizol</b> , Sarah Arroyo, rep by Patrick Shannon	x	Jana Pellusch
	Cara Herbeck	x	<b>Lubrizol</b> , Tanya Travis, rep by Patrick Shannon	x	Rassull Suarez, Speaker, Dow Chemical
x	Steven Horton	x	<b>Oxy Vinyls VCM</b> , Claudia O'Rourke	x	Corey Sledge, ITC
x	Norma Hysler	x	<b>Oxy Vinyls PVC/KOH</b> , Craig Horak	x	Wallace Ward
	Bill Irwin	x	<b>Shell Deer Park</b> , Jessica Blackmore	x	Blake White, HCOHSEM
	Katherine Mitchum	x	<b>Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site</b> , Tim Dick		
	Mike Mitchum	x	<b>Texas Molecular</b> , Jimmy Bracher		
x	James Ragaisis	x	<b>Valvoline</b> , Robert Shelton		
	Ariel Pena	x	<b>Vopak Terminal Deer Park</b> , Paul Kanters		
	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		

### COVID 101

Slides available online at <https://tinyurl.com/y5sexlw4>

Rassull Suarez, MD, MPH, the Dow Chemical Health Services Physician Director, presented COVID-19 risks, symptoms, transmission, testing and prevention. Dr. Suarez shared charts showing the percentage of various symptoms experienced by pediatric vs. adult patients and graphs showing the percentage of patients who

experience symptoms like fatigue, shortness of breath, and chest pain during the virus's acute phase and afterward. Illustrations showed how the virus can be transmitted and the effectiveness of physical distancing, masks, and eye protection, particularly when all three are used together, to help prevent exposure and spread. Dr. Suarez also emphasized the importance of good hygiene, like handwashing. He used graphics to show how to wear masks properly, covering both nose and mouth. He also explained the different kinds of COVID-19 tests and when to use which type.

Dr. Suarez shared a list of travel do's and don'ts and how to protect oneself during travel. A chart prepared by the Texas Medical Association ranked from 1-10 the risk of contracting COVID-19 from 38 common activities. Least risky was opening mail. Most risky was going to a bar. Dr. Suarez ended his presentation with tips for families during the pandemic, emphasizing the importance of talking and listening to each other as we confront the Coronavirus together.

**Question:** When will the virus end?

- We do not know how long it will be around. As more people contract the virus or if a vaccine becomes available, community immunity will slow the spread. Hopefully treatment options will continue to improve and lower the severity of infection.

**Question:** Do people who had it become immune?

- Yes, we think people will have immunity but we don't know for how long. It looks to be 3-4 months at least. There have been some cases of someone contracting it again, but it looks to be a much milder infection the second time.

**Question:** Have you heard scientists expect more animal to human viruses to occur?

- It is possible; the more we move into and interact more with nature, the risk increases.

**Question:** Are there long term impacts on lungs?

- At this time, long term impact to lungs and other major systems is under investigation. It appears that the heart is taking a longer time to recover from inflammation, and there are some reports of reactive airway syndrome following infection. Doctors are still trying to understand the long term impacts.

**Question:** Realistically, when will a vaccine be available?

- Approximately 7 vaccines are in Phase 3 trials right now. We expect by December there may be one or two vaccines available. It will take time to distribute them, however, and high risk populations like healthcare workers will be the first priority.

**Question:** Is the virus mutating to protect itself from treatment?

- One mutation has occurred, in Italy in late February, which increased the transmission capability of the virus. The genetic sequence is studied daily and it does not appear to change very quickly.

**Question:** Is there any data about the number of cases increasing since public schools are beginning in person classes?

- The potential for a rise in cases goes up anytime people are gathering indoors. Prevention measures, such as masks and social distancing, are helping lower transmission. Texas as a state was really high and has seen a significant drop.

**Question:** Will everyone be expected to take the vaccine when it becomes available?

- People who interact with others will have stronger requirements to vaccinate. Less public-facing individuals will be less likely to see such requirements. But do expect strong encouragement, and possible requirement to vaccinate once a good tested vaccine is available.

## **Updates**

### **Question of the Month**

See <https://deerparkcac.org/topics-and-meetings/#question> for the answer, and for answers to questions from past meetings.

### **Written Facility Updates**

Evonik Oil Additives USA, Inc. reported no spills, releases or injuries during the reporting period. The Deer Park site is now assisting other Evonik sites in use of the Total Productive Management (TPM) program. TPM focuses on improving self-management, continuous improvement, and employee commitment to the site.

Valvoline Deer Park reported no spills, releases or injuries during the reporting period. The facility continues to promote safety by emphasizing reporting of “near misses,” analysis of incidents to find the root cause, and plant inspections, and is working to improve sustainability and recycling.

Vopak Terminal Deer Park reported three environmental incidents during the reporting period. In March, approximately one gallon of lube oil was release to the Houston Ship Channel due to a dock line leak. In June, a lift station overflowed to the Houston Ship Channel following a heavy rainfall. In July, approximately 10 gallons of drill oil was released to the soil and 0.5 gallons was released to the Houston Ship Channel from a pipeline leak. Vopak reported no injuries during the reporting period, and their 2020 total recordable injury rate (TIR) is 0.0.

### **Level 2 Watches or Level 3 Warnings**

None reported.

### **Ozone Exceedance Days**

TCEQ’s Karen Lewis-Holmes reported there were no new ozone exceedance days in the Houston Region in the month of September. Year-to-date there have been 21 exceedances of the 8-hour ozone standard in the Houston Region.

### **Announcements**

Sheridan shared that the Gulf Coast Industry Forum, hosted annually by the Economic Alliance Houston Port Region, was held virtually on September 17, 2020, and a recording of the event is available online at <https://allianceportregion.com/gcif/>

## **Plans for Future Meetings**

Until DPCAC decides otherwise, the group will meet by Zoom videoconference from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

A Zoom poll was conducted to determine which topics from the current Program Plan should be modified to become presentations at the November 30 and January 25 DPCAC meetings. The November topic will be

aspects of the EPA Risk Management Program (RMP). The January topic will be aspects of the Employee Training topic. Zoom meetings are shorter than typical DPCAC meetings, so presentations must be shorter.

**MONDAY, October 26<sup>th</sup> – Annual Report on Air Emissions from DPCAC Plants**

**MONDAY, November 30<sup>th</sup> – EPA Risk Management Plan – and a toast to the end of 2020!**

---

**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