



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

October 26, 2020 Meeting

DPCAC Launches Series of Meetings about Risk Management

Twenty-five years ago, members of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) were introduced to a new Environmental Protection Agency program referred to as “RMP,” which stood for a Risk Management Program that called for plants with certain quantities of a list of flammable or hazardous chemicals to prepare Risk Management Plans (RMPs). The first plans were to be submitted in mid-1999, and the information needed to be shared with the public.

To decide how best to communicate RMPs, plants in the East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA) sought advice from DPCAC and similar community-industry forums. Over a 4.5 year period, DPCAC learned about the EPA program as well as how humans perceive risks. They and their community guests visited plants to see vessels whose failure could cause a serious explosion, fire, or toxic release. By sharing their perspectives and advice, they helped EHCMA decide how to explain chemical hazards, accident prevention, and emergency preparedness in clear and simple terms.

DPCAC members took part in an EHCMA-wide rollout of risk management plans that attracted more than 900 area residents to the Pasadena Convention Center. They worked with the Deer Park Local Emergency Planning Committee when RMPs were presented to more than 500 Deer Parkers at an event at the Jimmy Burke Activities Center. The group evaluated its work as important to DPCAC itself as well as valuable to those who live near industrial facilities. The next program in the series, on Feb. 22, 2021, will be an overview of the current EPA Risk Management Program.

DPCAC’s November 30 meeting, via Zoom, will feature the Annual Report on Emissions from DPCAC Plants. For more information, contact info@deerparkcac.org.

Read about DPCAC meetings and see summaries of our most recent presentations as well as our Questions of the Month at www.deerparkcac.org.