



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Monday, February 22, 2021

DPCAC Reviews EPA Risk Management Program

In respond to a request from the Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC), a presentation on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Risk Management Program (RMP) refreshed memories of the risk program launched 25 years ago and introduced others to the effort to minimize the chemical risk associated with an accidental release of certain toxic and flammable chemicals. RMP addresses hazard assessment, accident prevention, and emergency response. To protect communities, RMP calls for the same accident prevention programs that the OSHA Process Safety Management rule requires for worker protection.

To identify potential effects of an accidental release, RMP calls for analysis of offsite consequences for both a worst case scenario and a more feasible alternative. This information is submitted to EPA in a Risk Management Plan that also calls for the plant's 5-year accident history and a description of its plans for both emergency response and communication with the public. Plants submitted their first RMPs in 1999 and must do so every 5 years and sometimes sooner. Changes made to RMP in 2013 were finalized in 2019 but remain under court challenge. The additions require emergency response notification exercises, drills, and public meetings for certain accidents involving RMP chemicals.

Several plants commented on the big freeze, which mainly affected their utilities. Messages about flaring during shut down and start up may be found on the CAER Online app or at www.ehcma.org in the CAER Online section.

DPCAC's Mar. 22, 2021 meeting, via Zoom, will show how to use a Safety Data Sheet and other publicly available information to learn about a chemical's hazards. Benzene will be the example. The April meeting will feature lessons industry learned from the big freeze. 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.

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 here. The updates below cover September 2020 – February 2021.

Evonik Oil Additives

Several capital projects were implemented in 2020 to improve or increase safety of workers' tasks and to lower the risk of injury or exposure to personnel; 2021 capital projects continue the safety focus, especially on ergonomics, and operational flexibility. Have worked more than 6 years without an OSHA recordable injury.

“Evonik Oil Additives manufactures lubricant additives for blenders of Gear Oils, Automatic Transmission fluids, Grease, Hydraulic Fluids and Engine Oils.”

Valvoline Deer Park

No reportable spills or injuries during reporting period. Practiced several spill and injury drills. Have nearly reached goal of being “zero landfill” by steps such as recycling and sending waste where it can be used for its heat value. Use forklifts often, so added side marker safety lights to back up lights to improve safety.

“Valvoline Inc. (NYSE: VVV) is a leading worldwide producer and distributor of premium branded automotive, commercial and industrial lubricants, and automotive chemicals. The Deer Park plant primarily blends, packages, and distributes premium lubricants to a wide range of customers including Original Equipment Manufacturer, Retailers and Warehouse distributors.”

Vopak Terminal Deer Park

One injury during reporting period. Conducting region-wide safety culture survey to identify ways to improve safety program. Two spills of a gallon or less into the Ship Channel were contained by boom and cleaned up. Constructing 7 additional tanks.

“Vopak ensures safe, clean and efficient storage and handling of bulk liquid products and gases for our customers. Vopak Terminal Deer Park is a third party storage, import / export, and distribution facility handling the following products: Biofuels, Chemicals, and Petroleum products.”