



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Monday, March 22, 2021

DPCAC Launches New “Chemical of the Month” Series

To help the average community member understand more about chemicals, the Deer Park Community Advisory Council is returning to a feature of its meeting agendas from the 1990s and early 2000s called “Chemical of the Month.” Members who hear about a chemical release or have read about research on chemical exposure requested this agenda item to improve their knowledge of specific chemicals.

The series began at the March DPCAC meeting with an overview of the contents of Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) tool for communicating hazards to workers who handle hazardous materials. Anyone may access SDSs and find 16 sections of detailed information about a chemical’s properties and hazards as well as protection measures and safety precautions for handling, storing, or transporting the chemical.

Also featured will be documents from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), written for a public audience and thus less technical than SDSs. Altogether, these materials address questions such as what the chemical is, how it is used, how exposure may occur, how your health might be affected from high level or long term exposure, and how to protect yourself. The first Chemical of the Month will be Benzene.

At the Apr. 26, 2021 meeting, DPCAC plants will summarize their experiences in the big freeze, lessons learned, best practices and any changes they will make to prepare for a future sustained, deep freeze. Visitors are welcome to attend the Zoom meeting. Contact DPCAC at info@deerparkcac.org.

Read about DPCAC meetings and see summaries of our most recent presentations as well as Chemical 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 October 2020 – March 2021.

Clean Harbors Deer Park LLC

The incineration facility is waiting for approval of requests to modify two existing permits. One would permit a second “mix” building. The other would allow processing of non-hazardous wastewater in the treatment plant. There have not been any notices of violation from government agencies.

“Clean Harbors is a RCRA and TSCA permitted incineration facility. We store and treat hazardous, non-hazardous, TSCA, and medical waste. We also provide incineration services for witness burns to the DEA, DHS, and various police forces.”

Shell Oil Company

In addition to transitioning after the freeze into startup of the processing units, the facility was audited to verify compliance with standards set by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the chemical industry’s Responsible Care program. The Schools Fun Run benefiting the Deer Park Education Foundation, presented by Shell Deer Park, will be held April 17 both virtually and in-person.

“Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site is a fully-integrated refinery and chemical plant with ~1,500 employees and ~1,200 contractors working to produce fuels and base chemicals that go into thousands of consumer products. Shell is proud to call Deer Park home since 1929 and our top priority is operating in a safe and environmentally sound manner. We welcome feedback from our community and a member of our site can be reached at any time by calling our community hotline: 713-246-7301. Additionally, we invite the community to engage with us on social media @ShellDeerPark on Facebook and Twitter.”