

# Deer Park Community Advisory Council

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

## Meeting Notes Monday, April 26, 2021

The 292<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, April 26, 2021 via Zoom video conferencing. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The March 2021 meeting notes were approved without changes.

### ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
X	Ruth Boyd	X	<b>Clean Harbors</b> , Bruce Riffel	X	Dulce Becerra, Valvoline
X	Steve Corry	X	<b>Dow Chemical Deer Park</b> , David Herrington	X	Richard Bergeron, OxyVinyls PVC
X	Ken Donnell		<b>Dow Chemical</b> , Whitney Bolger	X	Nacole Biggers
	Beverly Ferguson-Cooper	X	<b>Evonik Oil Additives</b> , Jim Bentinck-Smith	X	John Collins
	Bobby Garcia	X	<b>GEO Specialty Chemicals</b> , Steve Outlaw	X	Trilby Cressman, Evonik
X	Sherry Garrison	X	<b>Hexion</b> , Marlene Mercado	X	Maria Endieveri, Native Prairies
	Tommy Ginn	X	<b>Intercontinental Terminals</b> , David Wascome, rep by Carl Holley	X	Karen Lewis-Holmes, TCEQ
	Robert Hemminger	X	<b>Lubrizol</b> , Sarah Arroyo, rep by Doug Moore	X	Betty Lemley
	Cara Herbeck	X	<b>Lubrizol</b> , Sam Striegel, rep by Doug Moore	X	Frank Marine, Texas Molecular
X	Steven Horton	X	<b>OxyVinyls VCM</b> , Josh Munn	X	George Mueller
	Norma Hysler	X	<b>OxyVinyls PVC/KOH</b> , Eric Delgado	X	Stuart Mueller, HCPC
	Katherine Mitchum	X	<b>Shell Deer Park</b> , Jessica Blackmore	X	Janet Rivera, UHCL
	Mike Mitchum	X	<b>Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site</b> , Guy Hackwell	X	Wallace Ward, Native Prairies
	James Ragaisis	X	<b>Texas Molecular</b> , Jimmy Bracher	X	Blake White, Harris County OEM
	Ariel Pena	X	<b>Valvoline</b> , Robert Shelton		
	Vickey Roberts	X	<b>Vopak Terminal Deer Park</b> , Kathy Stewart		
	Robert Segelquist				
	Andy Smith				
	Charles Thomas		<b>Support Staff</b>		
X	David Wade	X	Diane Sheridan, Facilitator		
	Ernest Weedon	X	Cynthia Wotipka Boland, Secretary		

# The Big Freeze: Plant Experiences, Lessons Learned, Best Practices, What Plants Will Do Differently

## **Input from Plants**

Attached is plant input from presentations, breakout room discussions, and other notes they submitted. The information has been compiled by topic without plant name so that the CAC may share it to help plants learn from each other.

The CAC sought input from plants in several ways:

- Plant attendees raised their hands to answer several questions.
- Four CAC plants of different types and sizes spoke briefly about what their plant experienced during Winter Storm Uri, lessons learned and what they will do differently the next time a severe freeze is forecast for the Greater Houston area. Presentations were made by David Herrington of Dow Chemical; Steve Outlaw of GEO Specialty Chemicals; Guy Hackwell of Shell Deer Park and Rob Shelton of Valvoline.
- Attendees met in breakout rooms so that all plants could discuss their experiences with community members.
- There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentations and during and after the breakout room discussion.

## **Yes and No Questions**

In order to gain a better idea of how plants fared during the freeze, Diane asked plant members several questions regarding their experiences. She asked members to respond by a show of hands.

### ***Anyone not have any freeze problems?***

It appeared all facilities were affected in some way by the freeze conditions.

### ***How many plants lost power because of a decision that ERCOT made?***

There were several, but not a lot.

### ***How many plants are registered with CenterPoint as a Priority?***

Several facilities indicated that they had done this.

### ***How many people lost utilities other than power? (Steam, Nitrogen, Natural Gas)***

It seemed like everyone experienced this issue.

### ***How many intentionally used a ride-out crew?***

Most plants responded yes.

**Harris County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)** - Following the discussions in the breakout rooms, Diane asked David Wade to give a brief update on what the OEM did every day during the freeze. David said that they held daily operation briefs for industry only, so they could let facilities know what they are expecting based on city and county information. Emergency managers from the Southeast Harris County area were included on the call and at times, there were 200+ people on call. The interest

in these updates was great and many people indicated that it was extremely helpful. A facility manager added that knowing when certain roads were going to be open (as well as all of the other information available in this call) was very useful as sites were trying to recover.

## Updates

### Written Facility Updates

**Dow Deer Park** - David Herrington reported that the site experienced a recordable injury on March 14<sup>th</sup> when an operator was exposed to acrylic acid when performing a strainer swap. This event ended a nearly 13 month injury free streak for the site. Like everyone else, they are still managing the effects of COVID. The site is starting to administer some COVID vaccines and while they are not tracking who has been vaccinated, they are encouraging employees to do so. David added that they were very pleased that Dow was named a Great Place to Work in 2021 Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work for and Best Workplaces lists from around the world.

**GEO Specialty Chemicals** - Steve Outlaw reported that the Title V Air Quality Permit was renewed in April. They also just installed a new low NOx boiler to replace a boiler that had been in operation since 1982. They are looking forward to getting the NOx numbers down. Steve said that they were very proud that GEO Deer Park's has not had a recordable injury since August 20, 2019. He added that as of April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Geo/Gulbrandsen joint venture G2O consolidated their manufacturing operations at the La Porte G2O facility and is no longer actively producing material at the Deer Park facility. There will be a transition period while remaining inventories are depleted and equipment is cleaned and removed from the site.

### Level 2 Watches or Level 3 Warnings

No warnings were received.

### Ozone Exceedance Days

TCEQ's Karen Lewis-Holmes reported that the ozone forecast season started in March and so far, there have been three 8-hour ozone exceedance days in the Houston Region year to date, exceeding the eight hour, 71 parts per billion (ppb) National Ambient Air Quality Standard. One of these exceedance days occurred in Deer Park in April. She added there has also been one 1-hour exceedance, giving a total of 4 year-to-date. Hopefully, the total will remain low through the summer depending on a lot of factors.

**Houston TranStar** - David Wade reported that TranStar was pleased to be observing their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the facility. TranStar opened in 1996 and David said that TranStar is proud to boast that they have saved motorists an estimated 7.1 billion dollars in reduced travel costs through their management of traffic. TranStar partners with the City of Houston, Harris County, METRO and TXDOT, all of which are all housed at this one facility. David added that TranStar has always been ahead on technology advancements and improvements.

**TCEQ** - Diane reported that the TCEQ periodically publishes the TCEQ Environmental Health Update (TCEQ publication GI-450) has been updated and posted on the TCEQ website. This update is based on the latest available health data (up to 2017 for blood lead data and cancer incidence, and 2018 for overall mortality rates and for asthma endpoints). Also presented are environmental data from 2018 to match the health data.

To view the document, visit: [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm\\_exec/pubs/gi/gi-450.pdf](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/gi/gi-450.pdf)

### Plans for Future Meetings

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

**Monday, May 24** - Cancer vs Refinery Proximity topic: BTEX Emissions and Air Monitoring Trends. Will include DPCAC benzene emissions data; HRM monitoring of Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Xylenes; Harris Co. Community Air Monitoring Program; DPCAC plants on their monitoring

**Monday, August 23** - Industrial Hygienist

Monday, September 27 – Annual Report on Emissions from DPCAC Plants

### **Dates for 2021 - all Mondays**

Jan. 25  
Feb. 22  
Mar. 22  
Apr. 26

May 24 (before Memorial  
Day)  
No June meeting  
No July meeting  
Aug. 23

Sept. 27  
Oct. 25  
Nov. 29 (delayed due to  
Thanksgiving)  
No December meeting