

Deer Park Community Advisory Council

www.deerparkcac.org

Meeting Notes Monday, May 24, 2021

The 293rd meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, May 24, 2021 via Zoom video conferencing. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The April 2021 meeting notes were approved without changes.

ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
X	Ruth Boyd	X	Clean Harbors , Bruce Riffel	X	Richard Bergeron, Oxy Vinyls PVC
	Steve Corry	X	Dow Chemical Deer Park , David Herrington	X	John Collins
X	Ken Donnell		Dow Chemical , Whitney Bolger	X	Karen Lewis-Holmes, TCEQ
X	Beverly Ferguson-Cooper	X	Evonik Oil Additives , Jim Bentinck-Smith	X	Kristie Huffman
X	Bobby Garcia	X	GEO Specialty Chemicals , Steve Outlaw	X	Betty Lemley
X	Sherry Garrison	X	Hexion , Marlene Mercado	X	Stuart Mueller, HCPC
X	Tommy Ginn	X	Intercontinental Terminals , David Wascome	X	Susan Newman, Hexion
	Robert Hemminger	X	Lubrizol , Sam Striegel, rep by Doug Moore	X	Christina Penrose, Lubrizol
X	Cara Herbeck	X	OxyVinyls VCM , Josh Munn	X	Jana Pellusch
X	Steven Horton	X	OxyVinyls PVC/KOH , Eric Delgado	X	Steve Smith, HRM, Speaker
X	Norma Hysler	X	Shell Deer Park , Jessica Blackmore	X	Matt VanVleck, HCPC
	James Ragaisis	X	Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site , Guy Hackwell	X	Wallace Ward, Native Prairies
	Ariel Pena	X	Texas Molecular , Jimmy Bracher	X	Blake White, Harris County OEM
	Vickey Roberts	X	Valvoline , Robert Shelton	X	Dennis Winkler
x	Robert Segelquist	X	Vopak Terminal Deer Park , Kathy Stewart, rep. By Michael Perkins		
	Andy Smith				
	Charles Thomas		Support Staff		
x	David Wade	X	Diane Sheridan, Facilitator		
	Ernest Weedon	X	Cynthia Wotipka Boland, Secretary		

Update from Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Complex

Earlier in the afternoon, DPCAC members received an email from Jessica Blackmore announcing that Shell is selling its interest in the refinery to Pemex. Despite the sale, Shell will continue to own and operate the Shell Deer Park Chemicals plant and remain active within the Deer Park community. In addition, no job losses are expected as a result of this sale and the current workforce will be offered

employment by Pemex. Since this was a big news story to the area, the agenda was adjusted to give Guy Hackwell time to add additional comments and for members to have a chance to ask questions. Guy explained that the transaction would take approximately six months to complete so that it would probably be 4Q 2021 before everything is completed. Guy added that Shell was not looking to sell the refinery but that Pemex made them a deal that they could not refuse. Guy then received questions from the members regarding the sale:

Is Pemex going to become a member of the DPCAC?

That is expected as they have made very positive comments regarding taking their place in the community.

Does this sale affect the stockholders?

Shell's strategy has been that they are moving away from refining and into energy transition but he was not sure if today's announcement affected the stock market. Selling the refinery was not part of the bigger plan but it was a very attractive offer.

How integrated is the chemical facility with the refinery?

Guy said it was highly integrated and that everyone would have to work very hard to make sure that the break up is done correctly.

Would the employees in the upper management be affected?

The leadership team would move across to the chemical side.

Is Mexico moving to increased use of hydrocarbons?

Pemex's process is around processing crude and being able to move products back to Mexico. Mexico is very short of gasoline and diesel and this move works well for them to become self-sufficient.

A citizen complimented Shell on the well-written announcement but said that the announcement was bitter-sweet for those long-term residents. They were glad that the refinery was staying in Deer Park but things are always changing.

Guy added that Shell has been in the area a very long time and Shell wants to demonstrate their commitment to the community. He said that they are looking for ideas on how to present that in the community.

Benzene Emissions. Air Monitoring Trends for Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Xylenes

BTEX Update from Houston Regional Monitoring (HRM)

(Slides posted at www.deerparkcac.org)

Steve Smith, Technical Advisory Committee Chairman for Houston Regional Monitoring (HRM), spoke about air quality trends for BTEX chemicals. HRM is an industry funded technical resource that does ambient air monitoring and they operate on an annual budget of \$2.3 million. They use the bulk of the funds to operate ten monitoring sites in the Deer Park area. They also have a special studies program

that collects the data and they use it to get a better understanding of air quality trends in the Houston area. Steve showed a map of most of the monitoring stations in the immediate area.

A chart showed significant reductions in annual average Benzene concentrations at automated gas chromatograph (GC) sites since 2011. These sites generate data points once an hour. All such sites in the ship channel area are well below the TCEQ Annual Air Monitoring Comparison Value (AMCV) of 1.4 parts per billion (ppb).

The annual average trend for BTEX from HRM canister samplers shows a 90% reduction in those compounds since 1988. Steve said that the data that is being seen with BTEX is probably what you would see other compounds that HRM monitors. The 2020-2021 concentrations are less than one part per billion.

Harris County Air Monitoring

Matt Van Vleck, Air Supervisor for Harris County Pollution Control Services (HCPCS), presented an overview of the county's new Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) website. CAMP is designed to measure pollution levels that affect environmental health and public health across Harris County; identify emission sources that adversely impact local communities; inform the public and elected officials on priorities related to clean air and environmental sustainability; and highlight patterns and trends that may support environmental regulatory activities. Matt showed how to maneuver about the website to see data from both fixed and mobile air monitors. He added that the CAMP website dashboard allows users to click on a fixed monitoring station to see the daily and yearly average for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and daily particulate matter (PM) values for very small air pollution particles. Users can also look back in time and see the history for VOCs and PM at each monitoring location. One can also click on the Houston Regional Monitoring (HRM) Dashboard to see data that is compared to long-term and short-term air monitoring comparison values (AMCV) for 50+ chemicals at five HRM monitors located in east Harris County. Links to the CAMP and HRM dashboards can be found at <https://pcs.harriscountytexas.gov> Following Matt's presentation, he answered a few questions from the CAC members:

Using the K-Solv fire as an example, one could see all of the orange dots where people were taking samples, but most of them had no detection--was that because the fire was past its peak? Is there a way to view the history after the incident is over?

Matt answered by saying that the mobile monitoring dashboard is limited and only goes back so far but all of that information is stored.

Has anyone tried using this program on the website and did they find it useful?

One member said that they had used it at their facility and were able to take advantage of resources all around their site to better understand their operations so that they don't impact the public. They were very thankful for a great relationship with HCPCS and HRM.

Were the monitors near River Terrace and Fairmont Park provided with a grant?

Matt said that the American Chemistry Council Foundation grant that was provided to Pct. 2 provided four monitors including River Terrace, Fairmont Park, Hartman Park and Riley Chambers Park.

Was the CAMP used during the recent winter storm Uri?

Yes, but fortunately there weren't a lot of emissions.

Poll of BTEX in DPCAC Plants

(Poll posted on Members page of www.deerparkcac.org)

DPCAC has started a periodic series of meetings related to questions that members have about a 2020 UTMB study of cancer rates vs proximity to refineries. The study focused on the BTEX chemicals: Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Xylenes. The planning committee recognized that more than refineries have chemicals and that there are sources of chemicals beyond those in DPCAC plants, so they wanted to know more about these chemicals in DPCAC plants. Diane recently polled the member plants to see who made, used, stored, moved or otherwise handled these chemicals.

Benzene Emissions from DPCAC Plants

(Poll posted on Members page of www.deerparkcac.org)

Next, members wanted to extract the Benzene emissions from the Annual Report on Emissions from DPCAC Plants and find out where the Benzene emissions come from at plants that report them. Looking at the overall emissions for the past five years, Benzene emissions are trending down but had a slight increase in 2018-2019. Still benzene emissions showed an overall decrease of 23% over the past five years. However, this report does not include ITC data because they did not report it in Fall 2020.

Monitoring by Plants

Finally, the last section of data that members wanted to know was about each plants air monitoring. Plants were asked to provide the following information and it was collected at this meeting from each plant.

- ***Does your plant conduct any air monitoring at the fence line or in the community?***
- ***If so, is it performed routinely or because an event occurred?***
- ***Is it voluntary or required by regulations?***
- ***Do you conduct your own monitoring or engage a monitoring company to do so?***

(**NOTE:** Responses are not yet complete. They will be shared at the next meeting. In most cases, plants would conduct monitoring at or beyond the fenceline only due to an event.)

Updates

Written Facility Updates

- **OxyVinyls Deer Park VCM** - Josh Munn reported that the facility had two reportable environmental incidents during the reporting period. One was in May 2020 and the other was February 2021 during the freeze when they lost both of their thermal oxidizers. The site also had 8 years going without a recordable incident when they experienced a recordable incident when an employee hurt their finger when using a wrench when opening a valve.
- **OxyVinyls Deer Park PVC/KOH** - Eric Delgado reported that the facility had three reportable environmental incidents since their last update. On August 20, 2020, a reportable quantity (RQ) of Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM) was released from a gasket on the rupture disk holder of a PVC reactor. The other two incidents were water-related. On December 19, 2020, there was a high

PH excursion at the stormwater outfall and the last incident occurred on February 11, 2021 when a small oil sheen was observed at the outfall after a rain event. The site also experienced a recordable injury when a contract employee injured his finger while adjusting the nozzle on an airless paint sprayer, inadvertently injecting paint into his finger.

- **TM Deer Park Services LLC (TMDP)** - Jimmy Bracher reported the applications to renew their three Underground Injection Control (UIC) permits have been declared administratively complete and are about to enter into the public comment period. In January, the facility conducted Mechanical Integrity Testing of two injection wells. No concerns or allegations occurred as a result of this observation. They also recently completed an audit by a 3rd party, who is a global auditor of waste handling facilities. Jimmy added that TMDP has gone 5,708 days without a lost time accident as of May 24, 2021 so they are closing in on sixteen years without a lost time incident. TMDP has recently lifted the mask requirement for those persons that are fully vaccinated for the COVID-19 virus. For any employees that are not vaccinated, the site continues to practice social distancing and mask coverings. TMDP rejoined EHCMA within the past month.

Level 2 Watches or Level 3 Warnings - Vopak reported two Level 3 incidents. The first was on April 16th when 5 gallons of base oil spilled from Barge Dock 3 into the Houston Ship Channel. The spill was related to a valve failure. The second was on April 30 and involved 10 gallons of unknown oil that was spilled from Barge Dock 4 into the channel. Booms and a spill boat were deployed for response and cleanup of both spills. All authorities and management were notified on each incident.

Ozone Exceedance Days - TCEQ's Karen Lewis-Holmes reported that there was one exceedance of the 8-hour standard for the month of May for the Houston region. As a result, there have been a total of five exceedances of the 8-hour standard year to date, one of which was at the Deer Park monitor last month. There was only one exceedance of the 1-hour standard in April of 2021 for the Houston area; it was not at the Deer Park monitor.

Status Census Results - The Census Bureau released the population numbers that determine how many members of the House of Representatives have been apportioned to each state. Texas gained two members, the only state to do so. Texas will now have 38. As you may recall from last year when we talked about the importance of the census not just for representation but also for getting our fair share of federal dollars, Texas expected to gain 3 seats if everyone filled out their census forms. Still to be released are the census data that will be used to draw new districts for the House of Representatives, the Texas Legislature, etc. States expect to receive those data in early fall.

Plants Not in DPCAC – In response to a question after the last meeting Diane reached out to several members to inquire about industrial plants that were not in the DPCAC. Among the sites that she learned about was a Praxair (now Linde) plant. There is a Linde plant in La Porte CAC, but the local plant is not active in the Deer Park CAC. Diane has reached out to them about joining the CAC. The second one was Novvi, which was part of Texas Molecular and a DPCAC member for a short period. Texas Molecular's Jimmy Bracher explained that the site is still owned by Texas Molecular, but leased to another party. He has talked to plant management numerous times and believes that they will be joining in the near future. Michael Perkins of Vopak reported that a new Vopak facility is being built, Vopak Moda. He will follow up to encourage them to join DPCAC once they start up.

Major New Weather & Air Quality Study - A presentation to La Porte CAC has been posted on the Deer Park CAC website because it will be of interest to DPCAC members. Also posted is a summary describing this major research effort to improve weather forecasting, which is based at the La Porte Airport.

Plans for Future Meetings

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

Monday, August 23 - *Learn How Plants Protect Workers That Make or Handle Chemicals like BTEX.*
Invite an industrial (occupational) hygienist to describe ways workers might be exposed to a chemical such as a BTEX chemical and what companies do to detect and prevent exposure and mitigate effects.

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

Dates for 2021 - all Mondays

Jan. 25	May 24 (before Memorial	Sept. 27
Feb. 22	Day)	Oct. 25
Mar. 22	No June meeting	Nov. 29 (delayed due to
Apr. 26	No July meeting	Thanksgiving)
	Aug. 23	No December meeting