



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Monday, April 26, 2021

DPCAC Plants' Freeze Experiences and Lessons Learned

At the end of April, Deer Park Community Advisory Council asked member plants to describe their experiences in Winter Storm Uri, the lessons learned, best practices for future deep, sustained freezes, and any changes they plan to make. In the big freeze, DPCAC plants suffered damage primarily from frozen pipes, just as residents did. Many set up a ride-out crew housed at the plant or in a nearby hotel and planned to run during the freeze to keep heat circulating. However, some experienced sudden shutdowns when power, steam, potable water, process water, nitrogen or other operating necessities were lost. Sudden power loss meant some plants needed to flare for safety. Loss of potable water meant no operable safety showers and eye wash stations unless portables had been obtained before the storm. Without nitrogen, safety purges of vessels were switched to temporary backups supplied from portable nitrogen containers or stopped. As plants prepare for a future freeze, the most common plan is to develop sitewide freeze protocols covering a deeper and longer freeze than previous freeze plans. One thing that went well were daily virtual meetings with the Harris County Industrial Liaisons and other resources where weather, road conditions, etc. were discussed.

At the May 24, 2021 meeting, DPCAC will focus again on the BTEX chemicals: Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Xylenes. They will review Benzene emissions from the group's most recent Annual Report on Emissions. Houston Regional Monitoring will show BTEX air sampling trends from 1988-2020. Harris County Pollution Control Services will describe its new Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) and where to find results. Visitors are welcome to attend the Zoom meeting. Contact DPCAC at info@deerparkcac.org. See summaries of our most recent presentations at www.deerparkcac.org. Visitors are welcome to attend the Zoom meeting.