



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Monday, May 24, 2021

Air Emissions and Air Monitoring Discussed at DPCAC Meeting

At its late May meeting, Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) continued its focus on the BTEX chemicals: Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Xylenes. BTEX are common, commodity chemicals used as building blocks to make other chemicals and, ultimately, many familiar products. Looking at benzene data from its Annual Report on Emissions from DPCAC Plants, members saw that their emissions from plants in the group come primarily from three facilities that either produce or store benzene.

Houston Regional Monitoring (HRM), a voluntary, industry-funded air monitoring organization, has sampled the air for the BTEX chemicals since 1988. The annual average in recent years is less than one part per billion, a reduction of 89% since 1988. HRM's *2020 Air Quality Trends* includes data on BTEX and more. See <http://hrm.aecom.com/>

Harris County Pollution Control Services has expanded its air monitoring program by adding new fixed monitoring stations and increasing its capacity to monitor the air after emission events, like fires. At this link for the county's [Community Air Monitoring Program](#), readers will find data the county has collected as well as access to recent Houston Regional Monitoring data.

On August 23, DPCAC will learn how industrial (occupational) hygiene programs aim to protect workers who could be exposed to hazardous chemicals on the job. 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 My 2020 – April 2021.

OxyVinyls Deer Park Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM) and Deer Park Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

OxyChem, parent company of OxyVinyls, recently established a new all-time record of working more than 100 days without an employee recordable injury across all 23 manufacturing locations. The Deer Park VCM site

received two American Chemistry Council awards, for efficiency and waste reduction. The PVC site had 3 environmental events since August 2020 and one injury. The VCM site had 2 events and one injury since May 2020.

“OxyVinyls is part of the critical infrastructure of the United States, providing key chemicals for a variety of life-enhancing products. The Deer Park VCM Site manufactures vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) and its precursor ethylene dichloride (EDC). The Deer Park PVC Site manufactures polyvinyl chloride (PVC) resins. Based on data from industry trade publications, OxyVinyls is the largest VCM producer and the third-largest PVC supplier in the United States. PVC resins are used in a wide variety of products, including essential medical supplies such as tubing and blood bags, PVC piping, construction materials (e.g., vinyl siding, windows and doors, fences and decks), electrical insulation and automotive products. OxyVinyls also licenses technology for the production of EDC and VCM.”

TM Deer Park Services LLC (Texas Molecular)

Texas Molecular is in the process of renewing applications for three Underground Injection Control permits. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality observed via videoconference the successful Mechanical Integrity Testing of two of its injection wells in January. In March, the site was audited by CHWMEG, Inc., which performs in-depth audits of waste handling facilities worldwide and reports results to their member companies, which are largely petrochemical and chemical manufacturers. No environmental events or injuries since June.

“TM Deer Park Services LLC (TMDP) provides commercial wastewater services to a variety of industries including chemical manufacturing, petroleum refining, metal galvanizing, and landfills. TMDP has three Class 1 Hazardous injection wells with a Federal EPA No Migration Petition.”