



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.deerparkcac.org).*