

Deer Park Community Advisory Council

www.deerparkcac.org

Meeting Notes Monday, September 27, 2021

The 295th meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, September 27, 2021 via Zoom video conferencing. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The August 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
x	Steve Corry	X	Dow Chemical Deer Park, Monty Heins, rep by Casey Rhodes	X	Nacole Biggers
	Deer Park OEM	X	Dow Chemical, Whitney Bolger, rep by Casey Rhodes	X	Trilby Cressman, Evonik
x	Ken Donnell	X	Evonik Oil Additives, Jim Bentinck-Smith	X	John Collins
	Beverly Ferguson-Cooper	X	GEO Specialty Chemicals, Steve Outlaw	X	Karen Lewis-Holmes, TCEQ
x	Bobby Garcia	X	Hexion, Marlene Mercado, rep by Susan Newman	X	Rafael Mendez, Dow
	Sherry Garrison		Intercontinental Terminals, David Wascome	X	Doug Moore, Lubrizol
x	Tommy Ginn	X	Lubrizol, Sam Striegel, rep by Christina Penrose	X	Stuart Mueller, HCPCS
x	Cara Herbeck		OxyVinyls VCM, Josh Munn	X	Jana Pellusch
x	Steven Horton	X	OxyVinyls PVC/KOH, Eric Delgado	X	Christina Perez, Texas Molecular
	Norma Hysler	X	Shell Deer Park, Jessica Blackmore	X	Wallace Ward, Native Prairies
	James Ragaisis	X	Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site, Guy Hackwell,	X	Blake White, Harris County OEM
	Ariel Pena	X	Texas Molecular, Jimmy Bracher	X	Natasha Zamstorff
	Buddy Rice	X	Valvoline, Robert Shelton		
	Vickey Roberts	X	Vopak Terminal Deer Park, Kathy Stewart, rep by Michael Perkins		
	Robert Segelquist				
x	Andy Smith		Support Staff		
	Charles Thomas	X	Diane Sheridan, Facilitator		
X	David Wade		Cynthia Wotipka Boland, Secretary		
	Ernest Weedon	X	Anne Gowan		

Annual Report on Emissions from CAC Plants

Zoom presentation posted at www.deerparkcac.org on Member page

Rafael Mendez of Dow presented the Air Emissions Inventory and Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) for the Deer Park CAC plants. The Air Emissions Inventory is the collection and evaluation of criteria pollutants, DPCAC meeting notes 9-27-21 as mailed

which include total suspended particulates, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide, and the ozone precursors volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides. The information is submitted to the TCEQ. The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is submitted to the EPA and tracks the management of certain toxic chemicals that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. Highlights from the Emissions Inventory and TRI are as follows. The “full presentation” includes explanations from each reporting plant for significant increases or decreases from 2019 to 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020 DATA ON EMISSIONS

NOTE: Intercontinental Terminals (ITC) did not submit a report in 2019 or 2020 for EI or TRI to the CAC. To provide a better comparison, ITC historical data has been removed from the report, but previous data has been retained so that ITC can be included when reporting resumes.

Air Emissions Inventory of Criteria Pollutants	Increase or Reduction from 2016-2020	Increase or Reduction from 2019-2020
Total Criteria Pollutant Emissions	-9%	-10%
NOx – nitrogen oxides	-12%	-10%
VOCs – volatile organic compounds	-21%	-21%
SOx – sulfur oxides	+2%	-2%
CO – carbon monoxide	+25%	-5%
TSP – total suspended particulates	-9%	-15%
Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)	Increase or Reduction from 2016-2020	Increase or Reduction from 2019-2020
Total releases to the air	-2%	-8%
Benzene	-13%	+2%
1,3-Butadiene	-17%	-34%
TRI releases to air from 1987 (9 plants) to 2020 (11 plants) are down 88%		

Questions

1) What additional actions can be taken to eliminate flaring completely or is that even possible? Mendez said that per regulations, certain sources are required to be controlled, and a flare is one method to controlling emissions

Guy Hackwell of Shell Deer Park said a flare could never be removed completely because it is a safety device. Flares are used during process safety events. When an unsafe situation arises and equipment needs to be depressured, product or feedstock is sent to the flare so that it is not released close to the ground. At most facilities, there is “background flaring” or when a small flame is continuously visible at the flare tip. Shell Deer Park now recovers gas going to background flare

and utilizes it in their process heaters. The following video on flaring was shared and can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1806920329463742>.

Small Group Discussion

Attendees participated in small group discussion in Zoom breakout rooms and were asked to discuss the report as a whole. The following feedback was received:

- The charts do a good job of showing trends in the data.
- Like seeing how DPCAC member companies compare to other local advisory panels, the county and state.
- Community members had questions about fugitive emissions and would like to learn more about what they are and how they are managed.
- Community members wanted to know what are the main factors leading to a change in emissions from year to year.

Updates

Update on Passive Dosimeter Badges- At the August 2021 DPCAC meeting, attendees wanted to know if passive dosimeter badges were used on a small scale or broad scale basis by DP industry members. A passive dosimeter badge is a device used to record cumulative and current dose exposure rate to radiation or a specific chemical. It can warn the person wearing it when a specified dose rate or cumulative dose is exceeded. Several DPCAC plants utilize personal dosimeters or something similar including Shell, Clean Harbors and Lubrizol.

Ozone Exceedance Days - TCEQ's Karen Lewis-Holmes reported that there were eleven exceedances of the 8-hour standard for the month of September for the Houston region, none of which were in the Deer Park area. There were also one exceedance days of the 1-hour standard for the month of September, which was not in Deer Park. September is the peak time for ozone exceedance days.

Written Facility Updates - Members received regular periodic plant updates in advance of the meeting but the facilitator asked the plants who reported this month to share one or two highlights from their update that they wanted members to know about.

- **Evonik** – Trilby Cressman reported that the facility is very close to achieving 7 years with zero OSHA recordable injuries. The site turnaround will begin in mid-October and will end in early November.
- **Valvoline** – Rob Shelton said their last recordable injury was in January 2020. The facility achieved zero landfill status in June 2021.
- **Vopak** – Michael Perkins said this year they have nearly completed 3 large capital projects that required an additional 500 contractors on site and they have not had any recordable injuries.

Plans for Future Meetings

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

- **Monday, October 25** - Update from Shell re: sale of refinery to joint venture partner Pemex. Scott Malm, CTEH, on factors researchers consider when trying to find causes of cancer.
- **Monday, November 29** (delayed due to Thanksgiving) -- Find out what the Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) knows about cancer in Deer Park by analyzing information on the Texas Department of State Health Services website. Review summary of what DPCAC learned from TCR analyses in 1995, 2000, 2004, and 2008.

Dates for 2021 - all Mondays

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

Dates for 2022 - all Mondays

Jan. 24	May 23	Sept. 26
Feb. 28	No June meeting	Oct. 24
Mar. 28	No July meeting	Nov. 28 (delayed due to Thanksgiving)
Apr. 25	Aug. 22	No December meeting