

# Deer Park Community Advisory Council

www.deerparkcac.org

## Meeting Notes Monday, November 29, 2021

The 297<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, November 29, 2021 via Zoom video conferencing. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The October 2021 meeting notes were approved without changes.

### ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
X	Ruth Bovid		<b>Clean Harbors</b> , Bruce Riffel	X	John Collins
	Steve Corry	X	<b>Dow Chemical Deer Park</b> , Monty Heins, rep. by Casey Rhodes	X	Trilby Cressman, Evonik
X	Ken Donnell	X	<b>Dow Chemical</b> , Whitney Bolger, rep. by Casey Rhodes	X	Jon Haire
	Beverly Ferguson-		<b>Evonik Oil Additives</b> , Jim Bentinck-Smith	X	Betty Lemley
x	Jamie Galloway	X	<b>GEO Specialty Chemicals</b> , Steve Outlaw	X	Karen Lewis-Holmes, TCEQ
	Bobby Garcia	X	<b>Hexion</b> , Marlene Mercado	X	Frank Marine, Texas Molecular
X	Sherry Garrison		<b>Intercontinental Terminals</b> , David Wascome	X	Stuart Mueller, HCPCS
X	Tommy Ginn	X	<b>Lubrizol</b> , Doug Moore	X	Brandon Pearson, OxyVinyls VCM
	Cara Herbeck		<b>NOVVI</b> , Alan Kominek	X	Jana Pellusch
X	Steven Horton	X	<b>OxyVinyls PVC/KOH</b> , Eric Delgado	X	Blake White, Harris County OEM
	Norma Hysler	X	<b>OxyVinyls VCM</b> , Josh Munn		
	Gretchen Knowles		<b>Shell Deer Park</b> , Jessica Blackmore		
	Paula Moorha	X	<b>Shell Deer Park Manufacturing Site</b> , Guy Hackwell		
	Ariel Pena	X	<b>Texas Molecular</b> , Jimmy Bracher		
	James Ragaisis	X	<b>Valvoline</b> , Robert Shelton		
	Vickey Roberts	X	<b>Vopak Terminal Deer Park</b> , Kathy Stewart		
	Robert Segelquist				
	Andy Smith		<b>Support Staff</b>		
	Charles Thomas	X	Diane Sheridan, Facilitator		
X	David Wade	X	Cynthia Wotipka Boland, Secretary		
	Ernest Weedon				

## DPCAC Reviews Cancer Data

Zoom presentation posted at [www.deerparkcac.org](http://www.deerparkcac.org)

To find data about cancer in Deer Park, members asked DPCAC Facilitator Diane Sheridan to search the Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) and also to summarize studies previously conducted for the community-industry forum by the state health department. Recent cancer statistics on Deer Park were not found, but data comparing Texas to other states and Harris County to other counties in Texas were available. Information came primarily from the Texas Cancer Registry, Cancer Epidemiology Health and Surveillance Branch, Texas Department of State Health Services and from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention's US Cancer Statistics.

TCR describes cancer as "the name given to a collection of more than 100 related diseases. In all types of cancer, some of the body's cells begin to divide without stopping and spread into surrounding tissues." The law requires hospitals, pathology labs, and certain other medical institutions and professionals to report all cancers diagnosed and treated in the state to TCR.

Cancer *incidence* is the number of newly diagnosed cases during a time period. From 2014-2018, the cancer *incidence* rate per 100,000 population was 449 cases in the US, 411 in Texas, and 393 in Harris County. During those same years, the cancer *death* rate was 156 people per 100,000 in the US, 148 in Texas, and 145 in Harris County.

The CDC defines a cancer cluster as a greater-than-expected number of cancer cases that occur within a group of people in a geographical area over a period of time. Texas health department studies conducted for DPCAC in 1995, 2000, 2004, and 2008 did not find significantly higher cancer rates except for 3 sites in the 2000 report. (Site refers to the location of the cancer within the body.) After seeing part of the protocol for conducting a cancer cluster study, discussion in small groups did not support DPCAC requesting one at this time. See details in the slides.

Following the presentation, Sheridan answered questions from the group.

**1. *Is there something that members can view after the meeting?***

Sheridan said that the presentation would be posted to the DPCAC website, and she encouraged members to view it and see if there were any additional questions that could be addressed at a future meeting.

**2. *What cancer causing environmental contaminant is the cause for concern in Deer Park near refineries?***

Sheridan said DPCAC does not have such information, but University of Texas Medical Branch study looked at four chemicals in particular: Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene and Xylenes and found a correlation between cancer rates and those living 10 and 30 miles from a refinery. These chemicals are often referred to as BTEX chemicals and there have been a few meetings where some information was shared about how people can be exposed and what kind of programs that plants have in place to prevent exposure in the workplace.

## Updates

**New Plant Member** - NOVVI recently joined the DPCAC. NOVVI was a prior member of the CAC but dropped out when they changed what they were making and built a new plant. With the help of Jimmy Bracher and Frank Marine of Texas Molecular, NOVVI is back as a member. NOVVI will present an introduction of their company at the January CAC meeting.

**Walt Crow** - Diane Sheridan reported on the death of Walt Crow, who retired several years ago from Houston Regional Monitoring. She said that some longtime members may remember Crow from the early years of the CAC. Sheridan estimated that he spoke to the CAC more than twenty-five times through the years.

**Poison in the Air** - Diane Sheridan said that some members might have seen a recent article that was published by ProPublica and they are doing a ZOOM meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 30th where you can ask questions about the study. Those members who are interested participating in this meeting should contact Sheridan directly for additional information. Sheridan said that she submitted a question that many of the members were probably interested in which was "What data did you base this report on and why did you choose that kind of data? Did you use air monitoring data where you are sampling the air or did you use emissions data from sources such as plants and why did you make the choice that you did?"

**Ozone Exceedance Days** - TCEQ's Karen Lewis-Holmes reported that there was an additional one-hour exceedance to report for October that occurred after the report was given at the CAC meeting, bringing the total to two. Lewis-Holmes said that there have been zero ozone exceedances to report for the month of November, adding that this is typical for this period. The busiest season for ozone reporting is March to November so it is the time of year where there are no ozone exceedance days to report. Year-to-date, there have been thirty-three 8-hour ozone exceedance days, which matched the 2019 total.

**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.

- **Dow Deer Park** - Casey Rhodes said that no reportable quantity events and no recordable injuries during this reporting period. The site had a NOV and two NOEs were received during the reporting period. Rhodes said that there has been excellent safety performance for the maintenance contractors and employees, reaching a significant milestone with 600 days of injury-free performance. COVID-19 precautions remain in effect but have allowed community volunteerism to resume.
- **Geo Specialty Chemicals** - Steve Outlaw reported that the site purchased another low NOx boiler, which will improve the air quality in and around the plant site. There have been no reportable spills, outfall excursions, or air releases during the reporting period. (No reportable air releases for last 3 years.) OSHA recordable rate is 0.00 year to date and was 0.00 in 2020.

**Shell** - Diane Sheridan said that we are still waiting to get confirmation on the closing of the sale of the Shell refinery to Pemex.

**CAC Secretary** - Diane Sheridan said that an email was recently sent out to members announcing that the CAC was looking for a new secretary as Cynthia Boland would not be able to continue once in-person meetings resumed. Sheridan added that the CAC is looking for someone who could also step up to be a Facilitation Associate as she transitions to retirement in 2022. Sheridan suggested that a Zoom meeting be held soon for the Treasury Committee to discuss some of the upcoming changes in 2022 which include plant changes as well as the Facilitation changes.

**Virtual Holiday Toast** - Members were invited to submit virtual toasts so that they could cheer what they were thankful for or what they wished to show the door. Ruth Boyd, Frank Marine and Jessica Blackmore submitted toasts for everyone to enjoy.

### **Plans for Future Meetings**

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

- **Monday, January 24, 2022** - Annual "State of the Plants" Report
  - 2021 achievements and challenges
  - 2022 goals and plans
  - Introduction of new DPCAC plant member, Novvi.
  - Review of plans for next few meetings.
- **Monday, February 28, 2022** - Learn more about the communities within 10 and 30 miles of a refinery in this area using census data, including poverty level, since it factors into the UTMB research. Questions you want to ask the researchers.

### **Dates for 2022 - all Mondays**

Jan. 24  
Feb. 28  
Mar. 28  
Apr. 25

May 23  
No June meeting  
No July meeting  
Aug. 22

Sept. 26  
Oct. 24  
Nov. 28 (delayed due to Thanksgiving)  
No December meeting