

# Deer Park Community Advisory Council

www.deerparkcac.org

## Meeting Notes Monday, January 24, 2022

The 298<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, January 24, 2022 via Zoom video conferencing. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The November 2021 meeting notes were approved without changes. Sheridan announced that she plans to retire from DPCAC in December and Anne Gowan will replace her as Facilitator. Gowan has worked with DPCAC in the past and currently is the Facilitator of the Community Advisory Panel to Lyondell and Equistar (CAPLE) in Channelview and the Facilitator Associate in the Bay Area Community Advisory Panel (BAYCAP).

### ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
X	Ruth Boyd	X	<b>Clean Harbors</b> , Bruce Riffel	X	Hector Acosta, Lubrizol
	Steve Corry	X	<b>Dow Chemical Deer Park</b> , Monty Heins	X	Trilby Cressman, Evonik
X	Kristina DeWitty		<b>Dow Chemical</b> , Whitney Bolger	X	John Collins
X	Ken Donnell	X	<b>Evonik Oil Additives</b> , Jim Bentinck-Smith	X	Rick Deel, HCOHS&EM
X	Beverly Ferguson-Cooper	X	<b>GEO Specialty Chemicals</b> , Steve Outlaw	X	Betty Lemley
X	Jamie Galloway	X	<b>Hexion</b> , Marlene Mercado	X	Karen Lewis-Holmes, TCEQ
X	Bobby Garcia	X	<b>Intercontinental Terminals</b> , David Wascome, rep. by Corey Sledge	X	Stuart Mueller, HCPCS
X	Sherry Garrison	X	<b>Lubrizol</b> , Doug Moore	X	Brandon Pearson, OxyVinyls VCM
X	Tommy Ginn	X	<b>NOVVI, LLC</b> , Alan Kominek, rep by Bob Wolff	X	Christopher Thomas, Occidental Petroleum
X	Cara Herbeck	X	<b>OxyVinyls VCM</b> , Josh Munn	X	Ginny Vance
X	Steven Horton	X	<b>OxyVinyls PVC/KOH</b> , Eric Delgado	X	Wallace Ward, Texas Native Prairies
	Norma Hysler	X	<b>Pemex Deer Park</b> , Guy Hackwell	X	Willie Wells, Houston Business Roundtable
	James Ragaisis	X	<b>Pemex Deer Park</b> , Jennifer Walsh	X	Blake White, Harris County OHS&OEM
	Ariel Pena	X	<b>Shell Deer Park Chemicals</b> , Nate Levin		
	Buddy Rice	X	<b>Shell Deer Park Chemicals</b> , Jessica Blackmore		
	Vickey Roberts	X	<b>Texas Molecular</b> , Jimmy Bracher		
	Robert Segelquist	X	<b>Valvoline</b> , Robert Shelton		
	Andy Smith		<b>Vopak Terminal Deer Park</b> , Kathy Stewart, rep by Michael		
	Charles Thomas	X	<b>Support Staff</b>		
X	David Wade	X	Diane Sheridan, Facilitator		
	Ernest Weedon	X	Cynthia Wotipka Boland, Secretary		
		X	Anne Gowan, Facilitation Associate		

## Annual “State of the Plant” Reports from DPCAC Plants

Asked to report their 2021 challenges and achievements and their 2022 goals and plans, all 15 Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) plants shared their assessments. All plants commented on their OSHA recordable rate. According to the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), a rate of 1.00 means one person per 100 had an injury or illness requiring a doctor’s intervention in 2020. A rate of 0.10 means is a rate of one per 1000.

Highlights from each report follows:

- **Clean Harbors Deer Park:** The site had 6 recordable injuries in 2021 and an OSHA total recordable injury rate (TRIR) of 1.9. An additional rail spur is being added to the site and will be used to transport ash and filter cake to a sister landfill in Oklahoma. The site’s Title V permit was renewed and their Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit was modified to allow for the treatment of off-site waters in the wastewater treatment plant. The site is hoping to increase headcount by 15 in 2022.
- **Dow Chemical Deer Park:** Winter Storm Uri happened during the site’s large first quarter 2022 turnaround. An additional 650 contract employees were hired to address approximately 3,000 freeze related repairs. Despite all of the challenges associated with COVID-19 and Winter Storm Uri, the site’s OSHA total recordable injury rate for 2021 was 0.08. The site will have another large multi-plant turnaround in the first quarter of 2022. One focus during 2022 is on fatigue management.
- **Evonik Oil Additives:** The site achieved 7 years with zero OSHA recordable injuries. Additionally, the site had zero reportable environmental events. Raw material supply shortages and staffing shortages in the trucking industry were the biggest challenges in 2021, and will continue to be challenges in 2022. The site will be installing its own drumming line in 2022, which will require the addition of 2 full-time employees. Start-up for this new line is expected in the first quarter of 2023.
- **GEO Specialty Chemicals:** The site had zero recordable injuries in 2021 and has gone 864 days without a recordable injury. The TCEQ and EPA renewed the site’s Title V permit. There were no reportable air releases, spills or outfall excursions. In 2021, there was a strong demand for glycine and production is expected to increase in 2022.
- **Hexion:** The site had 1 OSHA recordable injury and no reportable quantity spills or releases in 2021. Recovery efforts and restart of the operations after Winter Storm Uri took approximately 2 months. Hexion has entered into an agreement with Westlake Chemicals for sale of the Epoxy business, including a manufacturing unit in Deer Park. The sale is not expected to impact operations or staffing.
- **Intercontinental Terminals Company:** The site continued to experience staffing shortages as a result of COVID-19. The site’s TRIR was 0.3 in 2021. On-site soil remediation inside the 2<sup>nd</sup> 80s tank farm is complete, with the exception of the northern border, which is pending pipeline relocation.
- **Lubrizol:** The site had 2 OSHA recordable injuries and a TRIR of 0.27 in 2021, the site’s best ever. Lubrizol hired a new CEO mid-year 2021 which resulted in a shift in site objectives; for example, the emphasis on cybersecurity has increased.
- **NOVVI:** The site is co-located with Texas Molecular and had zero recordable injuries and reportable environmental events in 2021. The site hired 3 new operators in 2021 and has plans to hire 3-4 more in 2022. NOVVI is a new member of DPCAC.

- **Oxy Vinyls Deer Park PCV/Caustic Plant:** The site had two reportable quantity releases in 2021 and one non-resident contractor recordable injury. The employee recordable rate was 0.00. They had strong production and product quality performance despite challenges with COVID-19 and Winter Storm Uri. They continue to focus on COVID-19 prevention and have several key reliability improvement projects in 2022.
- **Oxy Vinyls Deer Park VCM:** The site had one reportable quantity release in 2021 and 2 OSHA recordable injuries. Their 2021 TRIR was 2.93. The site continued manufacturing essential products throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, they will hire 6 new operators and will roll out a new hands-on training program for operators and maintenance craftsmen.
- **Shell Deer Park (combined refinery and chemicals prior to sale to Pemex):** The TRIR was 0.34 in 2021. The site had 9 process safety incidents and 51 internal non-compliance incidents that were the result of an internal audit. The sale of Shell's interest in the Deer Park Refinery to Pemex was completed on January 20, 2022. Pemex is now the sole owner of the Deer Park Refinery.
- **Shell Deer Park Chemicals:** The site has 450 employees and additional contractors. The site will begin salary and benefits negotiations locally with the United Steel Workers. They will be restarting units in February, which will result in flaring at the elevated flares. The community may notice this flaring.
- **Pemex Deer Park-** They completed the purchase of Shell's interest in the Deer Park Refinery on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The new sign is visible from SH 225. The site will continue to participate in DPCAC, East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA), and various community events.
- **Texas Molecular:** The site has achieved 5,953 days without a lost-time incident and their TRIR was 0.0. They had no agency reportable spills in 2021. The TCEQ issued renewal permits on all three wells. They experienced a 25% increase in volume and production growth in 2021 and anticipate similar volumes for 2022 as they continue to add engineered solutions to their processes for higher safety and efficiency.
- **Valvoline:** The site had zero recordable injuries. In 2021, four additional people were hired and they expect to hire an additional 5 people in 2022.
- **Vopak Deer Park Terminal:** The TRIR for 2021 was 0.47. The terminal had one process safety event related to Winter Storm Uri. They bring students from Deer Park schools to visit the site through the WeConnect program.

Plants uniformly will continue their emphasis in 2022 on COVID prevention as well as safety and environmental performance.

## Updates

**Ozone Exceedance Days** - TCEQ's Karen Lewis-Holmes reported that in 2021, there were thirty-three 8-hour ozone exceedance days, 6 of which were in the Deer Park area. There were also six 1-hour ozone exceedance days, one of which was in Deer Park.

**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.

- **Hexion** – Marlene Mercado reported that Hexion announced it has entered into an agreement with Westlake Chemicals for the sale of the epoxy business. (*See State of Plants.*) A site wide turnaround is scheduled for the fall of 2022 and will last approximately 60 days.

- **ITC** – Cory Sledge reported that TCEQ conducted a wastewater permit investigation in August 2021 and no violations were reported. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, ITC experienced a reportable release of pyrolysis gasoline due to the failure of an internal floating roof located in an above ground storage tank. (*See State of Plants for remediation update.*)
- **Lubrizol**- Doug Moore reported they had zero reportable quantity exceedances since their last report. The site had one recordable injury on January 19<sup>th</sup> when a maintenance worker transporting his tools to a job site slipped and fell and fractured a bone in his hand. The site had 5 process safety incidents during this reporting period. Moore introduced his replacement at CAC meetings, Hector Acosta.

### **Interim Plant Updates**

- **Vopak**- Michael Perkins reported that a spill to the Houston Ship Channel occurred on December 4<sup>th</sup> when a leak was discovered on a barge dock line. Operations immediately inspected the area and found a pinhole leak on a loading line. The line was immediately drained, cleaned and replaced. A spill boat and boom were deployed to contain the spill. All authorities were notified.

**Deer Park Chemistry Day** Sheridan said the Chamber of Commerce, along with other community partners, will host a Chemistry Day, tentatively on March 28<sup>th</sup>, in order to heighten awareness about what local plants make and/or do. This event will include an afternoon session for high school students. Sheridan polled attendees and asked whether DPCAC should participate since it coincides with the normal meeting time. The overwhelming majority responded that the DPCAC should participate in the Deer Park Chemistry Day in lieu of holding a regular meeting.

**Returning to In-Person Meetings** Sheridan said if COVID-19 case counts decline through February, DPCAC would resume in-person meetings in March or April at the Republic Grill. Sheridan polled attendees and asked if they would feel safe eating from a buffet if plexiglass screens were used between the buffet line and the food and if Grill employees plated food. The majority of people said that they would eat from a buffet. However, a few people said that they would prefer a boxed lunch with bottled drinks.

**Shell Pipeline** sent a packet with public awareness information about pipelines and pipeline safety to Sheridan. It is intended for public officials, so the city should have received it. The packet contained the following:

- A letter with contact information, including how to find information about other pipelines.
- A satellite map of Shell’s area pipeline routes that was color-coded to what was in them.
- A different map showing Shell pipeline routes and the nearby hospitals, police and fire departments and schools.
- A US Department of Transportation “Hazardous Materials Quick Guide” listing products, whether they are gas or liquid vapors and their health hazards.

Details about pipeline systems may be found by accessing the National Pipeline Mapping System at <https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov>

**Website** Attendees agreed to shift the “Chemical of the Month” to “What Plants Make or Do” featuring the host plant that month and their words from their last plant update about what they make or do.

## Interim Program Input and Program Plan

Sometime after DPCAC returns to in-person meetings, attendees will take part in a typical Program Planning session. In the interim, attendees used a Zoom poll to select three topics for spring. We also will ask the UTMB researchers to speak about their study of cancer rates vs proximity to refineries. Topics are in order by community points. Topics came from the previous Program Plan, an offer from EHCMA, and timely issues likely to be of interest to DPCAC.

Proposed Meeting Topic	Community Points	Plant Points	Total Points
NEW BELTWAY 8 BRIDGE – what’s being torn down, why, what comes next	10	12	22
PORT EXPANSION – status of Project 11 to expand Port of Houston. What to expect in Deer Park area.	7	11	18
WEATHER & AIR QUALITY STUDY – major study of area; e.g., does polluted air contribute to heavier popup thunderstorms	6	7	13
PRIOR CANCER STUDIES – before UTMB researchers speak on cancer vs proximity to refineries, ask plants about any studies of cancer in workers. Seek summaries of prior studies of cancer in Ship Channel communities.	6	5	11
EHCMA STRATEGIC PLAN – new Executive Director on EHCMA and its first strategic plan	5	13	18
EMPLOYEE TRAINING – requirements, categories of trainees, tracking, value to community, etc.	2	6	8

### Plans for Future Meetings

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

#### *Monday, February 28 – Characteristics of Communities within 10 Miles and 30 Miles of Area Refineries*

- A 2019 UTMB study said there was a correlation between cancer rates of those living within 30 miles of a refinery and between the stage of a cancer and those living within 10 miles of a refinery.
- Among the topics DPCAC wants to understand better before inviting the researchers to speak are the characteristics of communities that fall within those areas. Using data from the 2020 Census and the 2015-2019 American Community Survey, the facilitator will show population, age, race and Hispanic background, education, health, income, and poverty level in Deer Park and other area communities.

### **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