



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Monday, May 23, 2022

DPCAC Updated on Weather and Air Quality Study

James Flynn, Research Associate Professor at the University of Houston, recently introduced Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) members to TRACER, the TRacking Aerosol Convection interactions ExpeRiment currently underway at 3 locations in the greater Houston area, including the La Porte Airport. Local residents may see mobile laboratories on trucks around the area or on boats in the bay. They also may notice weather balloons being launched from the airport on Spencer Highway.

Scientists are looking at the effects of tiny particles in the air on the formation of big puffy clouds that often bring us lightning and heavy rain. The study aims to improve forecasting of these pop-up thunderstorms, which sometimes lead to flooding. Researchers are collecting evidence to see whether clouds formed from polluted air behave differently from those composed of clean air; i.e.; whether rainfall is heavier when the air is polluted.

Another TRACER project is checking to see whether air samples from over the *bay* confirm a study from the early 2000s when samples taken over *land* revealed that pollutants from industry, vehicles, and other sources gather early in the day, move out to the gulf, and are carried back over the Houston area with the late afternoon bay breeze. This research will help scientists better understand ozone formation.

The University of Houston in conjunction with several other universities is examining how particles in the air change before, during, and after thunderstorms and whether certain kinds of particles wash out while others do not.

DPCAC members found the presentation “fascinating and informative” and encourage readers to view the slides at www.deerparkcac.org and use the links therein to track the work of TRACER. The agencies and universities conducting the study are listed in the slides.

Read about DPCAC meetings and see summaries of our most recent presentations at www.deerparkcac.org.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Each CAC agenda offers time for updates from community and plant members. 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. They cover January-May 2022.

OxyChem Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM) Plant and Deer Park Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) Plant – Each plant has received awards since the last report. Both received them from the American Chemistry Council for energy efficiency. The PVC plant had no reportable environmental or recordable safety incidents. The VCM plant had one of each.

“OxyChem and OxyVinyls are leading North American manufacturers of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) resins, chlorine and caustic soda – key building blocks for a variety of indispensable products such as plastics, pharmaceuticals and water treatment chemicals. Other OxyChem products include caustic potash, chlorinated organics, sodium silicates, chlorinated isocyanurates and calcium chloride. OxyChem’s market position is first or second in the U.S. for the principal basic chemicals products it manufactures and markets, as well as for vinyl chloride monomer (VCM). It is a global leader in the production of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Based in Dallas, Texas, the company has manufacturing facilities in the U.S., Canada and Latin America. 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.”

TM Deer Park Services (Texas Molecular) – The facility had no reportable spills or releases, no permit modifications or renewals since the last update, and no OSHA recordable injuries. Its compliance rating with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is 0.0, which is considered High Performance. Texas Molecular sponsored the Annual Deer Park High School Academic Honors Awards the week of May 16.

“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.”

Vopak Moda is a newly constructed facility that recently joined DPCAC. Their Marine/Ammonia Terminal became fully operational in October 2021. The Inland Terminal will be commissioned in July. It will bring in hydrocarbons by rail and ship them out by pipeline to a nearby customer.

“Vopak Moda is a for hire bulk storage terminal company. A joint venture between Moda Holdings and Royal Vopak. Comprised of an Inland Terminal on the north side of Hwy 225 / East Blvd. and a Marine Ammonia Terminal location between ITC and Dow, bordered by Patrick’s Bayou. Currently the Marine / Ammonia Terminal has one ship dock and 4 barge berths available. The Inland Terminal has storage capacity for 100+ railcar unit trains and has a hydrocarbon unloading rack.”

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