



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Monday, November 28, 2022

Origins and History of Deer Park CAC and Deer Park LEPC Presented

About to experience the first change in facilitators in its 32-year history, Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) members asked retiring facilitator Diane Sheridan to talk about the group's history. In addition, they invited Sam Pipkin to explain how the Deer Park Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) began. Both groups have their origins in a catastrophic chemical release in Bhopal, India in 1984. Government responded with passage of the 1986 Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). EPCRA called for LEPCs and reports about chemicals in the community, including annual reports of chemical inventories, an annual Toxics Release Inventory, and reports when unplanned releases of hazardous chemicals occur. The chemical industry responded to Bhopal first with the 1986 Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER) program and, in 1988, with Responsible Care.

The Deer Park CAER group formed in 1986 and became the Deer Park Local Emergency Planning Committee in 1987. The Deer Park Community Advisory Council began in March 1990. More than 3 decades later, both groups remain necessary, strong, and dedicated to carrying out their missions: emergency planning in the LEPC and community-industry dialogue about issues in DPCAC. What changes for DPCAC is the facilitator, when Facilitation Associate Anne Gowan replaces Diane Sheridan at the end of 2022.

DPCAC's Jan. 23 meeting will feature the Annual State of the Plants Report, with the 16 DPCAC plants sharing highlights of their 2022 achievements and their 2023 goals and plans. Visitors are welcome! For an invitation, contact info@deerparkcac.org.

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