



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.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Each CAC agenda offers time for updates from community and plant members. On a set schedule, at each meeting, 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 April-November 2022.

Dow Chemical Deer Park – No agency Reportable Quantity (RQ) events during this period. One delayed Notice of Violation (NOV) from the period November 1, 2020 – October 31, 2021. The Houston Hub Sites are now operating on the longest streak of incident free performance in the history of the facilities.

“The primary products produced in the Dow Deer Park plant are acrylates, methacrylates and Primene®. These products are used in a variety of end-use applications including paints, plastics, disposable diapers, fuel additives, antioxidants, caulks and much more. The primary products produced at Dow Lone Star are water-based emulsions which are used in many products such as paint, adhesives, sealants and paper.”

GEO Specialty Chemicals -- No reportable spills, excursions, or air releases since last report. Last recordable injury was on June 30, 2022 when an employee cut their hand and required stitches. GEO conducted its annual Emergency Response Drill on November 4th and thanked industry and community members that helped with this drill.

“The GEO Specialty Chemicals, Deer Park Facility is a specialty chemicals manufacturing site producing two primary products: Glycine and DAXAD® dispersing agents. Glycine is the simplest, naturally occurring amino acid. It is used in a variety of applications in the food industry and in pet foods as a flavor enhancer. It also has several pharmaceutical, agricultural, and personal care applications. DAXAD® is a Naphthalene Sulfonate dispersant agent used in a number of industries. Applications include concrete mixes, wallboard, rubber manufacturing, leather dyes, paper and paint manufacturing, and agricultural products.”

Novvi – Zero RQ events, NOVs and process safety events. There was one recordable injury in May 2022 when an employee injured their right thumb while moving a section of prefabricated piping. Due to plant production increases, Novvi plans to hire 4 new operators in the 2nd quarter of 2023.

“Novvi LLC manufactures sustainable base oils utilizing plant-based feedstocks. They are used in Lubricants, Polymers, Personal Care products, Elastomers, and Electric Vehicles”