

Deer Park Community Advisory Council

www.deerparkcac.org

Meeting Notes Monday, February 27, 2023

The 307th meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, February 27, 2023 at the Republic Grill. Facilitator Anne Gowan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The January 2023 meeting notes were approved without changes.

ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
	Brian Babin, US Rep 36	X	Clean Harbors , Bruce Riffel	X	Sheryl DaPron
	Ruth Bovd	X	Dow Chemical Deer Park , Monty Heins	X	Rick Deel, HC HS & OEM
	Steve Corry, DPISD	X	Evonik Oil Additives , Jim Bentinck-Smith	X	Alida Donnell, Guest
	Kristina DeWitty, SJC	X	GEO Specialty Chemicals , Steve Outlaw, rep by Mario Saenz	X	Scott Eady, Kinder Morgan Terminal
	Christine DiCosimo, TX Hse. Dist. 128	X	Intercontinental Terminals , David Wascome, rep. by John Ferguson	X	Karen Guidry, Guest
X	Ken Donnell	X	Lubrizol , Hector Acosta	X	Paul Guidry, Guest
X	Jamie Galloway, DP OEM		NOVVI , Alan Kominek, rep. by Bob Wolff	X	David Kayser, Lubrizol
X	Bobby Garcia	X	OxyVinyls PVC/KOH , Eric Delgado	X	LeAnn Kincaid, Guest
	Sherrv Garrison	X	OxvVinyls VCM , Josh Munn	X	Brian Lawson, Dow Chemical DP
X	Tommy Ginn	X	Pemex Deer Park , Guy Hackwell	X	Betty Lemley
X	Cara Herbeck	X	Pemex Deer Park , Jennifer Walsh	X	Brad Lyons, Westlake Epoxy
X	Steven Horton	X	Shell Deer Park , Nathan Levin	X	Frank Marine, Texas Molecular
X	Gretchen Knowles, Harris Co. Pct. 2	X	Shell Deer Park , Jessica Blackmore	X	Yayma Martinez, TCEQ
	Maves Middleton, TX Sen. Dist. 11	X	Texas Molecular , Jimmy Bracher	X	Garrett McLeod, Dow Chemical
	Paula Moorhaj, DP Chamber	X	Valvoline , Robert Shelton	X	Stuart Mueller, Harris County Pollution
	Tyler Padgett, SJC	X	Vopak Moda , Jeff Sanford, rep. by Duane Campbell	X	Duke Ogega, Evonik
X	Bill Patterson, DP City Council	X	Vopak Terminal Deer Park , Kathy	X	Christina Perez, Texas Molecular
	Ariel Pena	X	Westlake Epoxy , Marlene Mercado	X	Darrell Pinckard
X	Randon Pierson			X	David Sanchez
	Vickey Roberts			X	Maria Sanchez
X	Andy Smith, San Jacinto Battleground				
	Angela Smith, City of Deer Park				
	Charles Thomas		Support Staff		
X	Cheyenne Valdez	X	Anne Gowan, Facilitator		
	David Wade	X	Marilyn Bass, Secretary		
	Ernest Weedon				

Severe Weather and Tornadoes on January 24, 2023

Deer Park experienced severe weather and at least one tornado on January 24th. Deer Park Office of Emergency Management Director Jamie Galloway discussed the city's response to the severe weather. The National Weather Service (NWS) issued the first ever Tornado Emergency alert for parts of SE Harris County at 2:24 p.m. Four minutes later, a tornado was spotted in Golden Acres and a warning was sent to dispatch at the police department and city directors. At 2:30 p.m., Deer Park proactively used sirens originally intended for a shelter-in-place during a possible chemical emergency to alert citizens to go inside due to the weather emergency. A tornado was reported at the library at 2:31 p.m. At 2:33 p.m., the police department launched a citywide Code Red call alerting citizens to the tornado danger. At 2:49 p.m., a tornado struck Deer Park. The NWS classified this tornado as an EF-3 with a trail of damage 18 miles long and up to 1,000 yards wide in some places. Deer Park had no reports of major physical injuries or deaths due to the tornado, partly due to the excellent job of communication to the community, partly due to people heeding the warnings, and partly due to the grace of God.

Galloway also said the Deer Park Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at 3:02 p.m. San Jacinto Manor was destroyed with 64 residents inside. Deer Park EMS, SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council (SETRAC) and Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) helped relocate all residents at San Jacinto Manor in 8 hours. The EOC experienced the same issues as the community and lost power and had issues communicating because of the damaged cell phone and radio towers. Generators were used for several days. CenterPoint had a representative in the EOC by Wednesday and power was restored to areas where it was safe by January 29th. Mobile cell towers were deployed by carriers to restore communication abilities.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) has a mobile platform that can be used to capture storm-related damages to buildings and public infrastructure called State of Texas Assessment Tool (pSTAT). Citizens used this platform to upload information and photos of damages so that the EOC could prioritize the allocation of resources. Uninsured losses are estimated at \$18 million. A Federal Disaster Declaration has been requested, but has not yet been approved. The Small Business Administration (SBA) is also available for assistance.

Approximately 27,713.70 cubic yards of debris or 77,598,380 pounds of debris was sorted into 2 groups: vegetative and construction & demolition (C&D). 8,959.10 Cubic yards of vegetative debris was taken to the Novus Wood Group and will be recycled locally into consumable products such as mulch and potting soil. 18,754.60 cubic yards of C&D debris was taken to Green Shadow Landfill.

Many groups volunteered to help with clean-up. The forestry service assisted the Parks and Recreation department with clean-up efforts in the city parks and facilities. Texas Baptist Men cut trees and removed debris for 2 weeks after the tornado.

When asked if any residents were injured in the homes that received substantial damage, Galloway said due to the timing of the tornado, many people were not home when the tornado hit Deer Park. Additionally, those that were home were not outside because they heard the sirens. There were no major injuries or deaths due to the timing of the tornado and the fact that residents listened to the siren and Code Red message and took shelter.

Rick Deel, Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management Operations Section Chief, shared information about the emergency response from Harris County. The county activated the EOC at Houston TranStar and coordinated with Jamie Galloway, and his counterparts in Pasadena and Baytown. By Tuesday night, 50 emergency vehicles were staged at AMC 30. Various police departments reported information through TranStar and SETRAC ran the critical medical operations center.

Coordinating resources was a tremendous effort to ensure that the correct personnel were sent to the proper areas. Communication was a challenge due the loss of the cell tower. As a result of the tornado, additional redundancy has been added to the communication system to ensure that emergency operations personnel do not have communication barriers in the future.

DPCAC Plant Experiences/Responses:

Plants were asked whether they had problems as a result of the severe weather on January 24th and how they prepared, managed, responded and are recovering. Plants also commented on whether their employees were impacted and how plants are assisting affected personnel. Others were also invited to share their experiences.

- Most plants reported losing power, which began emergency shutdown procedures and resulted in flaring. Only two of the 16 DPCAC plants reported that they did not shut down.
- Some flares are designed to mix with steam in order to reduce smoke. Due to the loss of steam from a 3rd party steam provider, smoke plumes from these types of flares were visibly larger and darker.
- It took some sites 4-5 days to restart their units.
- Many plants activated their EOC immediately.
- One plant reported significant damage to a building. The concrete, studs and I-beams were twisted and the building was a complete loss. An entire HVAC system was pulled off the top of a building at a nearby plant in La Porte
- Plants sheltered in place and accounted for all personnel on site.
- A siren was heard during a meeting and employees immediately took steps to ensure that everyone onsite sheltered-in-place.
- One plant reported that employees in their control room potentially prevented injuries by quickly telling people over the site-wide PA system to shelter and not move.
- One site activated their leadership phone tree to communicate with employees quickly and confirm that all employees were safe. The site also could have utilized a cell phone program to poll employees.
- Many sites learned that employees need to be trained on where to shelter-in-place during a tornado. During a chemical release, any indoor area is sufficient. However, during a tornado, a portable trailer is not the ideal place for shelter.
- Most plants have severe weather plans, but not specific tornado plans. Plan to drill for tornado events for the future.
- Most were surprised at how fast the emergency arose. This area is accustomed to hurricanes when sites have days to prepare and shutdown.
- Plants did not release non-essential employees early, but may consider doing so in the future.
- The damage trail was very different than the damage after a hurricane.
- One site said a handful of employees were affected, but more retirees were impacted.

- There were employees with damage to their homes. Plants sent crews to tarp and do yard cleanup.
- One site had 10 employees with minor roof and fence damage.
- Supported emergency responders with lunch from a local eatery.
- Shell donated \$275,000 to local charities for recovery.

Community Organization and Community Member Experiences/Responses:

- **TCEQ sent** out teams to monitor air quality, primarily in neighborhoods. They have 2 mobile monitoring systems: vehicles that can monitor and handheld monitors. Both types were used and there were no readings of concern.
- **Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia’s office** is still working to help community members in need get paired with resources. Please email Gretchen Knowles if you still need assistance at Gretchen.knowles@pct2.hctx.net.

Updates

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.

- ITC- John Ferguson reported that the ITC is still focused on the soil remediation along the southern portion of Tucker Bayou and the Tidal Road Ditch. An OSHA recordable event occurred on December 5, 2022 when an employee lost their balance and fell onto their right shoulder. There was not a root cause other than that the employee just lost their balance. ITC is growing and business is strong.
- Lubrizol - Hector Acosta reported 2 reportable incidents, 3 NOVs and 2 recordable injuries since Lubrizol last reported. Reportable incidents: October 2022 – Polyisobutylene release from storm outfall resulting in sheen on Patrick Bayou. January 2023 – Chlorine release from overpressure on vaporizer via rupture disc pressure gauge fitting. NOVs: August 2022 – open ended lines & minimum heating value for flare. October 2022 – polyisobutylene release from storm outfall, resulting in sheet on Patrick Bayou. January 2023 – open ended lines & missed audio, visual, olfactory inspection. Recordable injuries: 1/18/23 – back injury; ergonomics opening manway on reactor, 8/11/22 – hand injury; trip and fall during offsite emergency response training. New Leadership Team was put into place in 4th quarter 2022, with a complete turnover over the last 18 months. Company has invested \$85 million in capital projects in 2022 and has plans to invest \$67 million in 2023.
 - Questions:
 - What was the root cause of the injury that occurred on August 11th? The injury occurred during emergency response training when the employee tripped over a fire hose.
 - What was the cause of the chlorine release? A root cause investigation revealed that there was a plug missing on a rupture disc pressure gauge. Corrective action includes personnel doing walkthroughs at 9:30 pm every day to look for missing plugs.

- Westlake Epoxy – Marlene Mercado reported that there were 0 recordable injuries, and 0 process safety events during this reporting period. The site completed their turnaround in Fall of 2022 without any injuries or environmental releases. 2022 production volumes remained flat with previous years and 2023 volumes are projected to be slightly lower. The site is still hiring for several positions.

Ozone Exceedance Days - TCEQ’s Yayma Martinez reported that in 2023, there have been no ozone exceedances of the 8-hour or 1-hour standard. Normally, in the Houston area ozone exceedances occur between April through November.

Texas Molecular Water Treatment Update –Frank Marine of Texas Molecular (TM) provided an update on their disposal of wastewater from the East Palestine, Ohio railcar fire. Several additional updates were emailed to DPCAC the previous week. Marine said that TM has received approximately one million gallons of wastewater from the firewater used in putting out the railcar fire containing vinyl chloride (VCM). The wastewater they are receiving actually contains less than one tenth of 1% of VCM. This water is similar to waters TM accepts on a regular basis. TM has injected 95% of the water that they received to date and as a result, the wastewater is no longer a threat to the environment or people. The wastewater was sent to TM for disposal because TM has the expertise, technical specifications, necessary permits and the very large immediate capacity to process this volume of water quickly and safely while minimizing the risk to the environment. Some of the water is being sent to other much closer facilities with limited capacity. TM was not the lowest cost option due to the large transportation costs. Rather, TM was selected because they have decades of experience with managing various firewater projects, and especially a much larger one in the Deer Park area. TM is happy to be able to be part of the solution helping the community of East Palestine, OH recover in the aftermath of this tragic accident.

Questions and Comments:

- 1) *Who made the decision to bring the wastewater to Deer Park?* Ultimately, the customer and generator, with the help of the EPA and the Ohio equivalent of the TCEQ, decided where they would dispose of the wastewater.
- 2) *Is there an issue with the trucks transporting hazardous materials across state lines?* The transportation companies carrying hazardous material or hazardous waste are required to have a hazardous material permit and hazardous waste permits in each state they drive through.
- 3) *Did Texas Molecular bid for this?* Yes, TM submitted a price for this project. TM was probably the highest price option given the distance to Deer Park. TM is handling the volume above the smaller capacity of closer facilities to manage this water.
- 4) *Did the EPA contact TM when they suspended disposal at your site?* No, the EPA just stopped loading trucks in Ohio that were bound for Texas. They did not stop trucks of wastewater already in route to be offloaded at TM.
- 5) Community member Bobby Garcia expressed his appreciation to Frank Marine and TM for keeping DPCAC informed over the week through email updates. Garcia said he posted the facts he received from TM on his Facebook page so that people in the area would have information “straight from the source.”

Upcoming Events

- **Mind Trekkers** Adventures in STEM Family Night will be held on March 9th at San Jacinto College LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, and Technology from 6-8pm. There will be fun science experiments and demonstrations for all ages. Admission is free for families. For more information, see the attached flyer.
- **Deer Park Chamber of Commerce Chemistry Day** will be held on March 28th at San Jacinto College. For more information, see the attached flyer.

Plans for Future Meetings

DPCAC meets at Republic Grill at the City of Deer Park Battleground Golf course from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

March 27, 2023 Carbon Capture and Storage 101: Meeting 1

- Panelists will explain what carbon capture and storage is, its purposes, why it is important, benefits, relevance to the community, impacts, and safety & security risks.
- Panelists from Houston Carbon Capture & Storage Alliance, and UH Professor and Air Alliance Houston have been invited.

April 24, 2023- Carbon Capture and Storage in Deer Park: Meeting 2 (Shell and Calpine)

May 22, 2023- SH 225 and SH 146 Construction and Maintenance

- TxDOT will discuss projects underway and planned for SH 225 and SH 146, including connectors to the BW8 Bridge

Dates for 2023 - all Mondays

Jan. 23
Feb. 27
Mar. 27
Apr. 24

May 22
No June meeting
No July meeting
Aug. 28

Sept. 25
Oct. 23
Nov. 27
No December meeting

Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC)

Input on January 24th Severe Weather

2-27-23

1. Anything you were happy to hear?

- No one seriously injured or killed.
- 64 San Jacinto Manor residents relocated. Ambus – 20 passenger bus
- Speed of response in the community, city, OEM – fortunate to have a lot of resources.
- Opportunity to do better planning, put tornado planning with other emergency plans.
- No significant releases.
- The amount of response to need.
- Good communication during event.
- No incidents during startup.
- Minimal environmental impacts.
- No HazMat issue at rail.
- Sounds like Emergency Management systems worked well under duress.
- Technology employed to help understand impact/ focus resources.

2. Any concerns about what you heard?

- “Real preparedness” for tornado needs work for industry and community.
- Precise drills really pay off.
- Wish city had better plans.
- Plants didn’t have specific plans for tornadoes.
- Need for more sirens, not just chemical sirens.
- Need to make a “what to do” during tornado warnings.
- Improve Communications/Notifications Warnings.
- Communications throughout responding agencies.

3. Any lingering questions?

- Did all sirens go off? Andy isn’t sure Monument siren went off.
- What happens if we get 2 different sets of instructions?
- Future of vegetative debris?

4. Input on other topics?

- All around at the end of the year, nothing changed since then.
- Robert with Valvoline mentioned that hearing that DP was under a Tornado Watch in the morning, did a Shelter in Place drill that morning as they had new contractors. When the real deal happened a few hours later, it really came together.
- Great to see neighbor helping neighbor and businesses stepping in to feed those that needed it.
- Walgreens for using generators to help people in need.
- Why they brought waste from Ohio to Texas? Bruce Riffel of Clean Harbors told attendees at his table that there are only certain places to legally dispose of the waste. Each site handles different types of waste, has specific capabilities and capacity levels.



ADVENTURES IN STEM FAMILY NIGHT

Join us for an evening of fun science experiments and demonstrations for all ages!

MARCH 9, 2023 |

6-8 P.M.

San Jacinto College Central Campus

LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology
7901 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, TX 77507

Create, Learn, Discover!

**FREE
ADMISSION
FOR
FAMILIES!**

SPONSORS

lyondellbasell

INEOS
THE WORD FOR CHEMICALS

DOW

**Chevron
Phillips**
Chemical Company LP

**THE
KANEKA
FOUNDATION**
kaneka

East Harris County } *Making Good.*
MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

**the
human
energy
company**

**SAN JACINTO™
COLLEGE**

sanjac.edu | 281-998-6150

An Equal Opportunity Institution

Awareness- Products- Community- Safety- Jobs

DEER PARK
Chamber of Commerce

CHEMISTRY DAY



Tuesday, March 28th, 2023

Lunch 11:00-1:00

San Jacinto College LyondellBasell
Center For Petrochemical,
Energy and Technology
7901 Fairmont Pkwy., Pasadena, Tx, 77505

Lunch

\$35 members
\$50 non-members

Table of 6

\$200 members
\$250 non-members

Booth

\$400 members
\$450 non-members

Sponsorships

Gold Sponsor (Executive)

\$2,500

Silver Sponsor

\$1,000

Bronze Sponsor

\$500

Join us as we bring education and awareness of the value of industry

- Lunch & Expo: 11am-1pm, Student Expo 1-3pm
- Interactive Expo Booths from leading industries