

Deer Park Community Advisory Council

www.deerparkcac.org

Meeting Notes

Monday, October 23, 2023

The 313th meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, October 23, 2023, at the Republic Grill. Facilitator Anne Gowan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The September 2023 meeting notes were approved without changes.

Attendees are listed at the end of these notes.

Annual Report on Emissions from CAC Plants

Full presentation posted at www.deerparkcac.org on Member page

DPCAC plants contributed information for the annual report on air emissions, which covered 2018-2022 and is based on inventories most DPCAC plants must file. The detailed spreadsheets with plant-specific data from which the presentation was developed were mailed to attendees prior to the meeting. An Orientation file with background material was mailed to the DPCAC list on 10-11-2023 rather than being presented.

Gary Jackson of Vopak Terminal presented the attached presentation, which covers the main reasons for change from 2021-2022, analysis of the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and the Air Emissions Inventory, comparisons with other CAPs, comparisons with Harris County and the State of Texas, and resources for those wanting more information. Input from small group discussion is attached. The Air Emissions Inventory is the collection and evaluation of criteria pollutants, which include total suspended particulates, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide, and the ozone precursors volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides. The information is submitted to the TCEQ. The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is submitted to the EPA and tracks the management of certain toxic chemicals that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. Highlights from the Emissions Inventory and TRI are as follows. The “full presentation” includes explanations from each reporting plant for significant increases or decreases from 2021 to 2022. All CAC plants that must file one or both inventories provided data for the report with the exception of ITC

After the presentation, attendees participated in small group discussion at their tables. Input is listed at the end of the notes.

Below is a summary showing changes from 2018 to 2022 and from 2021 to 2022.

Air Emissions Inventory of Criteria Pollutants	Increase or Reduction from 2018-2022	Increase or Reduction from 2021-2022
Total Criteria Pollutant Emissions	+7%	+37%
NOx – nitrogen oxides	-3%	+3%
VOCs – volatile organic compounds	-5%	+6%
SOx – sulfur oxides	+18%	+30%

CO – carbon monoxide	+15%	+3%
TSP – total suspended particulates	+48%	+39%
Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)	Increase or Reduction from 2018-2022	Increase or Reduction from 2021-2022
Total releases to the air	+3%	+1%
Benzene	-20%	-44%
1,3-Butadiene	+2%	+14%

Questions

1) *How long have you been tracking DPCAC emissions data?* DPCAC has been collecting emissions data since the 1990’s.

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.

- Evonik – No reportable spills or releases or permit exceedances. Duke Ogega shared that they performed a third-party environmental audit and submitted the findings to TCEQ. They have 6 months to complete all compliance gaps. Production volume is slightly lower than expected but is still meeting the business forecast.
- Valvoline – Rob Shelton reported their ZERP LANDFILL status is working well for the site. The facility has installed a high-speed bag in box filler for the oil in a box product line.
- Vopak – Gary Jackson reported that Vopak Terminal has received a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to improve a dock that is currently in disrepair. This is a big project, which will span several years.

Ozone Exceedance Days – TCEQ’s Yayma Martinez reported adjusted numbers for August, September and up-to-date in October. In August, the Houston Region exceeded the 8-hour ozone standard 21 times, six of which were in Deer Park, and exceeded the 1-hour ozone standard twice, neither occurred in Deer Park. In September, the Houston Region exceeded the 8-hour ozone standard 19 time, 6 were in Deer Park. In October, the Houston Region exceeded the 8-hour standard twice, neither occurred in Deer Park. September through November is the peak time for ozone exceedance days.

Questions and responses from Martinez:

1. *Does the heat cause a lot of the exceedances?* Yes, and sunlight exacerbates the ozone issue. Houston had a record number of sunny days. Although other trends are going down, weather is not.
2. *What can the community do to help reduce ozone?* Citizens in metropolitan areas in Texas can sign-up to receive alerts on their phones when conditions are forecast to be favorable for high ozone levels so that citizens, businesses, and industry can take steps to reduce the pollutants that contribute to ozone formation. For more information or to sign-up, visit https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/monops/ozone_email.html. Additionally, you can carpool, walk, or bike instead of driving on those days, especially during peak traffic times.

WaterMyYard.org is a website developed by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension that uses local weather data to provide watering advice with the goal of water conservation through decreasing water usage. Users receive customized weekly water advice for their specific lawn and irrigation system.

Galveston Bay Foundation has issued its most recent Galveston Bay Report Card, a citizen driven, scientific analysis of the health of the Bay. The report card gives a traditional academic grade to 29 indicators in categories such as water quality, pollution events and sources, habitat, wildlife, human health risk, and coastal change. For more information, see www.galvbaygrade.org.

Treasury Committee

The DPCAC Ground Rules Relating to Finances need to be amended at the November meeting in order for DPCAC to participate in East Harris County Manufacturing Association’s (EHCMA) centralized accounting system in 2024. Gowan will send out the proposed changes prior to the meeting and give members two weeks to review and provide input. Please let Gowan know if you have any questions or concerns.

Plans for Future Meetings

Monday, November 27 – Brainstorming and Prioritizing Meeting Topics with Sticky Dots

No December Meeting

Monday, January 22 – Annual State of the Plant Report

Dates for 2023 - all Mondays

Jan. 23	May 22	Sept. 25
Feb. 27	No June meeting	Oct. 23
Mar. 27	No July meeting	Nov. 27
Apr. 24	Aug. 28	No December meeting

Dates for 2024 - all Mondays

Jan. 22	May 20 (early because of	Sept. 23
Feb. 26	Memorial Day)	Oct. 28
Mar. 25	No June meeting	Dec. 2 (delayed for
Apr. 22	No July meeting	Thanksgiving)
	Aug. 26	No December meeting

ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
	Brian Babin, US Rep 36	X	Clean Harbors , Bruce Riffel	X	Caroline Alcantar, Shell Deer Park
X	Ruth Bovd		Dow Chemical Deer Park , Sharon Hulgan	X	Ella Barlow, student
	Steve Corry, DPISD	X	Evonik Oil Additives , Jim Bentinck-Smith	X	John Collins
X	Sheryl DaPron	X	GEO Specialty Chemicals , Steve Outlaw	X	Brett Conaway, Harris County OEM&HS
	Kristina DeWitty, SJC	X	Intercontinental Terminals , David Wascome rep. by Rich Howes	X	Kaya Cromeens, student
	Christine DiCosimo, TX Hse. Dist. 128	X	Lubrizol , Hector Acosta rep. by AJ Jones	X	Karen DeBorde
	Ken Donnell	X	NOVVI , Alan Kominek, rep. by Bob Wolff	X	Cody Gonzales, student
	Jamie Galloway, DP OEM	x	OxyVinyls PVC/KOH , Jeff Koetitz, rep by John McPhaul	X	John Groetsch, OxyVinyls DP PVC/KOH
X	Sherrv Garrison	X	OxyVinyls VCM , Josh Munn	X	Garv Guilhas, Pemex Deer Park
X	Tommy Ginn	X	Pemex Deer Park , Guy Hackwell	X	Cayley Hanson, student
X	Karen Guidry		Pemex Deer Park , Jennifer Walsh	X	Betty Lemlev
X	Paul Guidry	X	Shell Deer Park , Nathan Levin	X	Yayma Martinez, TCEQ
X	Cara Herbeck	X	Shell Deer Park , Jessica Blackmore	X	Carlton Mason, Guest
X	Steven Horton	X	Texas Molecular , Jimmy Bracher rep. by Frank Marine	X	Pam Mason, Guest
	Gretchen Knowles, Harris Co. Pct. 2	X	Valvoline , Robert Shelton	X	Stuart Mueller, HCPC
	Mayes Middleton, TX Sen. Dist. 11	X	Vopak Moda , Jeff Sanford rep by Duane Campbell	X	Susan Newman, Westlake Epoxy
	Paula Moorhaj, DP Chamber	X	Vopak Terminal Deer Park , Kathy Stewart, rep. By Gary Jackson	X	Duke Ogega, Evonik
X	Wanda Morris	X	Westlake Epoxy , Marlene Mercado, rep. by Bradley Lyons	X	Aurora Olivares, student
	Tyler Padgett, SJC			X	Cesar Olivares
X	Bill Patterson, DP City Council			X	Christina Perez, Texas Molecular
	Ariel Pena		Support Staff	X	JP Reyes Rivera, student
	Randon Pierson	X	Anne Gowan, Facilitator	X	Kailey Sexton, student
	Darrell Pinckard	X	Marilyn Bass, Secretary	X	Micah Whittemore, student
	Vickey Roberts				
	David Sanchez				
	Maria Sanchez				
	Andy Smith, San Jacinto Battleground				
	Angela Smith, City of Deer Park				
	Charles Thomas				
	Cheyenne Valdez				
x	David Wade				
	Ernest Weedon				

Small Group Input
Input on Annual Emissions Report
October 23, 2023

1. Ask the plants at your table to share one of their emissions reduction goals.

- Evonik – total organic carbon (TOC) reduction in wastewater.
- ITC – Protect environment through environmental, social and governance (ESG) reporting and tracking.
- OxyVinyl – TOC reduce hazardous material.
- Pemex – operate within or below permit limits, reduce updates, capex into equipment integrity, ITPM plans on piping, reduce upset conditions.
- Shells says that the goal is to keep equipment operational during a freeze, that's difficult.
- Shell – net Zero by 2050.
- Texas Molecular – low emissions in general, any increase would be from client shipments.
- Valvoline – small plant – changed our compressors with pulse air compressors to reduce emissions.
- VOPAK – 30% of GHG by 2030 include growth.
- Westlake – Overall reduction goal of greenhouse emissions. Established a committee to brainstorm ways to achieve.
- VOPAK- no spills last 2 years.
- Westlake – development of spill reduction playbook, globally improving processes and safeguards.
- Reduce NOx with new burners.
- Reduction of wastewater production.
- There's lots of variables that will change their emission reduction goals based on each emission.
- Reduce environmental deviation by 15% annually to stay within environmental permits needed to operate.

2. Anything you were happy to hear?

- Overall trend downward, but good to see 5-year trends as well.
- Consistent reduction of emissions from year to year.
- Data over time is trending downward.
- Overall downward trend, despite 2022 trends.
- Decreases, good trend.
- Emissions generally going downward.
- Happy to hear that the trends were declining over the years.
- Data indicated emissions going down consistently.
- Deer Park is a good place to live.
- Floating roofs use to cause a lot of emissions.
- Benzene emissions are down.
- Benzene has been significantly decreased by 44% in the last year.

3. Any concerns about what you heard?

- Some of the students did not know what Benzene, Butadiene and VOCs were – did school send students orientation ahead of time?
- TRI showing increase over 2021 numbers.
- SOx increases.
- Big increase in SOx
- Questions regarding the testing of water in the Ship Channel.
- Most chemical outputs have increased in the last year.

4. What can we do to improve the report, itself, both materials and presentation? Consider the orientation packet and Full Presentation mailed before the meeting to members and others who RSVPed as well as the presentation tonight.

- Gary did great!
- No change to reporting
- Show significant incidents/weather events/ highlight for context.
- Better Data Visualization
- 1 bullet point with the takeaway on each slide
- Show population impacted
- The advance material helped a lot.
- Some of the spreadsheets were hard to read from your seat and didn't really add to the presentation.
- Maybe some more information on the sources of emissions.
- Who comprises the rest of Texas? How do we compare?
- Students wish there was more background on the terms used so we know which ones are more harmful.
- The presentation was very fast and people who didn't understand the elements/ principles of the inventory were lost throughout the presentation.
- Looks good, but small print was hard to read.

5. Any input on anything else?

- Go 'Stros!
- Proposal to use 5:30-6:00 for environmental education session for people not familiar with data or in industry.
- Show how data is calculated to understand where emissions come from.
- Potential Main Topic – Is the water that discharged into the Ship Channel tested prior to being released? If so, what is the process?
- Make the font bigger