**Deer Park Community Advisory Council**  
**www.deerparkcac.org**

**Meeting Notes**

**Monday, February 26, 2024**

The 315th meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, February 26, 2024 at the Republic Grill. Facilitator Anne Gowan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The November 2023 meeting notes were approved without changes.

**New Plant Introduction – Kinder Morgan Deer Park Rail Terminal**

Blake Wood, Manager of the Kinder Morgan Deer Park Rail Terminal (DPRT), highlighted the terminal services offered via rail and truck. Their 377-acre facility features an ethanol storage yard, a 24-spot ethanol offload rack, an ethanol tank farm, a storage-in-transit yard, and a crude-by-rail offload rack with 60 spots. With 27 miles of rail track infrastructure, they primarily offload to tanks and then transfer via pipeline. They supply 96% of the fuel-grade ethanol consumed in the Houston area. Their facility is equipped to handle the simultaneous processing of 8 unit trains, including those for coal, coke, ethanol, and crude. DPRT maintains an active Zone 3 membership in CIMA and holds Class 3 status in the corporate pool.

**Annual “State of the Plant” Reports from DPCAC Plants**

Asked to report their 2023 challenges and achievements and their 2024 goals and plans, 16 Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) plants shared their assessments. Some plants commented on their OSHA recordable rate. According to the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), a rate of 1.00 means one person per 100 had an injury or illness requiring a doctor’s intervention in 2023. A rate of 0.10 means is a rate of one per 1000.

Highlights from each report follows:

* **Clean Harbors Deer Park:** The site had a TIR of 0.27, with 1 reportable injury, LTIR is 0.0. The final onsite landfill was closed in 2023. EPA conducted 2 inspections in 2023 and have not yet issued a report. The TCEQ also conducted 2 inspections. In 2024, Clean Harbors plans to replace a couple of tanks in kind.
* **Dow Chemical Deer Park:**  In 2023, the site worked 3.2-million-man hours and achieved a 0.44 TRIR that included one hearing shift (that is potentially a recordable injury). The site had 2 recordable employee injuries and 3 contractor injuries. The site produced 2 billion pounds of product in 2023 and they forecast volume growth in 2024. Last year, Dow hosted a “Jobs in Manufacturing” day for local middle school students and conducted a full-scale incident training exercise.
* **Evonik Oil Additives:** The site had zero OSHA recordable injuries, and no reportable quantity spills in 2023. 2023 sales were lower than the targeted goal, but 2024 has been very good. The site created 2 jobs in 2024.
* **GEO Specialty Chemicals**: The site had one recordable injury in 2023 and a TRIR of 1.57. There were no reportable environmental events. In 2023, they completed a small debottlenecking project, which led to a new production record. In 2024, glycine production is expected to increase even more as the effects of the debottlenecking will have been in place for one full year.
* **Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC):** In 2023, the TRIR for ITC Deer Park was 0.28. For all of ITC, which includes Deer Park, Baton Rouge and Pasadena sites, the TRIR was 0.13. There were no contractor injuries. Last year, the site received Responsible Care 14001/ISO 9000 recertification and there were no environmental reportable spills or releases. Currently, ITC is working toward Voluntary Production Program (VPP) certification. In 2023, ITC employees volunteered approximately 550 hours at 17 different events. In 2024, their focus is on safety, environmental health and growth.
* **NOVVI:** In 2023, the site had zero recordable injuries/illnesses, zero reportable environmental events and zero process safety management (PSM) events. In late 2023, Novvi reorganized and the Board of Directors was restructured and a new President was named. Additionally, Novvi’s product mix changed. In 2024, Novvi will renew their air permit and is making some small process equipment upgrades to improve efficiency. Novvi will continue striving for Goal Zero.
* **Oxy Vinyls Deer Park PCV/Caustic Plant**: see Updates
* **Oxy Vinyls Deer Park VCM:** see Updates
* **Pemex Deer Park-** The site had 2 employee recordable injuries in 2023 and 1 contractor recordable injury. The site had 5 Tier 1 process safety incidents, including fires in March and April. In 2023, there were three reportable quantity exceedances. Pemex Deer Park held 2 Family Engagement Days at Minute Maid Park. Additionally, in 2023, they received Refinery Energy Star Certification. In 2024, they will continue to focus on community involvement, environmental compliance, health, safety and workforce development.
* **Shell Deer Park Chemicals:**  In 2023, Shell experienced a fire at the Deer Park site. Shell was able to rebuild the affected area and started back up at the end of January 2024. In September, DPCAC members toured the affected unit and learned about how it was being rebuilt. In 2023, Shell increased their use of CAER Online. Shell Deer Park is the presenting sponsor of the Strides for School Fun Run. Additionally, Shell is offering $2,500 STEM grants to each school that gets 95 registrations and an additional $2,500 grant to the school that has the most registrations.
* **Texas Molecular:** see Updates
* **Valvoline:** In 2023, they produced 48 million gallons of oil, transmission fluids, and gear oils. Valvoline also supplies fluids to TESLA. In March 2023, Saudi Aramco bought Valvoline Global Operations. Aramco will now own the Valvoline brand with respect to the products business, and Valvoline Inc. will own the Valvoline brand with respect to its retail services business. In January 2023, the site had its first injury in 4 years. There were no reportable spills and the site achieved zero waste to landfill status. In order to increase employee engagement, site management asked employees to share what the company should be focused on to improve safety, quality and productivity, areas of focus in 2024. The site is also partnering with San Jacinto Elementary school.
* **Vopak Deer Park Terminal:** The site recorded no reportable releases but did experience four minor spills to the Houston Ship Channel and seven instances of minor loss of primary containment, all of which were contained and cleaned on site. Numerous audits and inspections were conducted throughout 2023, resulting in four minor violations issued for late submittals. Vopak obtained a new Stormwater Discharge Permit for their wastewater treatment plant effluent discharges and applied for a renewal of the Stormwater Discharge Permit for their terminal operations. In 2023, their total recordable injury rate (TRIR) was 0.27, lost time injury rate (LTIR) was 0.0, and process safety event rate (PSER) was 0.0. The site worked a total of 740,591 man-hours. Looking ahead to 2024, their goals include the replacement/reinforcement of approximately 75% of the facility bulkhead and two large docks. Additionally, they plan to retrofit two tanks and construct three new 100,000-barrel tanks. They continue their efforts to achieve a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Additionally, in 2024 they will repair and reroute their stormwater drainage system in the north-side railcar storage area. Furthermore, they have ordered a new aerial fire truck, scheduled for delivery in 2025.
* **VOPAK Moda, now Vopak Exolum Houston (VEH):** see Updates
* **Westlake:** The site has achieved two years without an OSHA recordable injury and has gone 6 years without a lost-time injury. Additionally, the site had no reportable quantity spills or releases in 2023. In 2023, the site had two shutdowns in order to complete maintenance work. Longtime site manager Marlene Mercado moved to a new role at the end of 2023. The new site manager is Prashanth Hejmadi. Negotiations with the United Steel Workers will begin later this year as the current union contract expires in September.

Plants uniformly will continue their emphasis in 2024 on safety and environmental performance.

**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.

* **OxyVinyls PVC/KOH** – Jeff Koetitz said they had one reportable environmental incident since the last update period. On October 5th, a daily outfall grab sample registered a pH of 9.3 versus a permitted limit of 9.0. This occurred during a heavy rain event and the pH increase was attributed to rainfall. Two recordable injuries occurred during this period. One new employee was hired and OxyVinyls plans to hire approximately 40 new operators for Houston area sites during the first half of 2024. The facility participated in numerous community events, including sponsoring Deer Park Parks and Recreation Halloween Carnival, Senior Olympics and Reindeer Park. The site also participated in several Chamber of Commerce activities. Although the market has softened the past three years, steady production is expected in 2024.
* **OxyVinyls VCM** – Josh Munn reported one reportable environmental incident since the last update period. On January 8th, an expansion joint failure occurred during a power outage and resulted in a reportable quantity release of ethylene. One recordable injury occurred. The site received 5 Texas Chemistry Council awards for worker safety and process safety performance. The facility supported numerous community events and provided funding to local organizations that help the community as a whole and participated in Deer Park Chamber of Commerce activities. Employee wellness events included a Blood Drive, a Biometric Wellness Screening and onsite appointments with “The Rose”. Business Conditions are expected to remain strong in 2024.
* **Texas Molecular** – Jimmy Bracher shared a safety message about being aware of hazards at home. Texas Molecular Deer Park (TMDP) had no reportable spills or releases. TMDP submitted an application to renew their RCRA permit with TCEQ. Annual mechanical integrity tests (MITs) on 3 wells were successful. TCEQ had no concerns or violations from MITs. TCEQ did perform a multimedia inspection in January 2024, but the final report has yet to be received from the agency. TCEQ Compliance rating is currently 0.0. TMDP has gone over 18 years without a lost time accident. TRIR for 2023 was 2.0 due to 1 recordable injury that occurred in June. TMDP was accepted as a Class 3 member in Channel Industries Medical Aid (CIMA). In 2023, TMDP processed over 22,000 trucks in their facility. The company is investing in the facility and hiring a few people in 2024. TMDP serves the community throughout the year by serving on LEPC and serving at LEPC events and also sponsoring and participating in other local events. TMDP had a strong 2023 with very high production levels. Additionally, TMDP headquarters were moved back to Deer Park in December 2023. Several capital expenditure projects are scheduled for 2024 that will allow TMDP to provide new technology and engineered solutions to local and national industries they serve. TMDP continues to participate in local charities and provide financial support to the DP Fire Dept, DP High School, Boys and Girls clubs of Coastal Bend and Pee Wee’s Pet Adoptions.
* **VOPAK Moda, now Vopak Exolum Houston (VEH):** – JD Abernathy reported no spills or releases since startup. Additionally, there have been no process safety events. In 2023, the site had no recordable injuries and no environmental releases. The EPA and Railroad Commission of Texas conducted several audits and no violations were found. 2023 ammonia throughput volumes were similar to 2022. The site received 17 ships and 42 barges and continued to deliver to downstream users via pipeline. In 2023 product throughput volumes were received from 513 railcars and delivered to downstream customers via pipeline. The site participated in several community outreach activities, including adopting a family for Christmas and donating backpacks at 3 local schools. Vopak Moda Houston is currently going through an ownership change. MODA sold their half (50%) of the company to Exolum. The ownership is split 50/50. Vopak Moda Houston will now be known as Vopak Exolum Houston (VEH). 2024 goals include a terminal wide Safety Day with all employees and contractors participating. VEH also has expansion projects so that they can begin exporting ammonia via ships.

**Other Updates**

**CAP/CAC Membership Enhancement**

EHCMA, the local trade association for the petrochemical industry that most LPCAC plants are members of, has offered to help Advisory Councils/Panels in East Harris County to be more visible and grow. There is an ongoing need for DPCAC to enhance the community’s awareness of the group. Holly Kurth from EHCMA and Jessica Blackmore from Shell form part of the EHCMA committee tasked with collaborating with CAPS to expand its membership and enhance industry and community engagement. EHCMA conducted a survey in September 2023 to take the pulse on community interests and concern, and Blackmore discussed the results. Highlights from the survey were presented which covered topics in which the community is interested in hearing about, meeting formats, and obstacles to attending. Proposed ideas include creating a DPCAC Facebook page and having a STEM program for school-aged kids during a meeting. Hybrid meetings were also recommended.

Gowan took an informal poll regarding interest in having a Facebook page and many said yes, with some nos. More Discussion needed. Gowan took an informal poll regarding a Children’s STEM program during a DPCAC meeting. Many said yes, with some nos. More Discussion needed. Hybrid meetings are not recommended for DPCAC.

**Chemistry Day**

Melissa Caylor from the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce spoke about Chemistry Day which will be held on Tuesday, March 26th at the San Jacinto College Center for Petrochemical Energy and Technology. The Chamber is creating product baskets that will be used as centerpieces on each table. If any DPCAC member company would like donate, please contact Caylor at [melissa@deerparkchamber.org](mailto:melissa@deerparkchamber.org).

**Deer Park LEPC Calendar**

Christina Perez (Texas Molecular) is the Deer Park Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Community Awareness Chair. The Deer Park LPEC creates a calendar every year and the 2024 focus is industry in Deer Park. The LEPC would like to include pictures in the calendar that include employees inside a plant and at volunteer activities. If a DPCAC member company is interested in showcasing their plant in next year’s calendar, please contact Perez at [christina.perez@vlses.com](mailto:christina.perez@vlses.com).

**Plant Host**

OxyChem Deer Park PVC/KOH Plant makes poly vinyl chloride (PVC) and potassium hydroxide. PVC is used in personal protective equipment for medical professionals treating virulent diseases. A PVC bag will preserve blood for 42 days. PVC is also used in building and construction materials, and approximately 1 ton of PVC is used in the construction of new homes. KOH is a key ingredient in soap and is also used in fertilizer and to de-ice airplanes.

**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.

*Monday, March 25, 2024 – Houston Ship Channel Security District*

* HSCSD will be asked to describe security efforts in industry today, providing an overview of who does what, an explanation of HSCSD’s work, and examples to the extent appropriate.
* Gary Scheibe, Pemex Security Manager and HSCSD board member, will serve as the speaker and will also offer an industry perspective on plant security.

*Monday, April 22, 2024 DPCAC at Age 34 and How to Improve*

* In order to increase visibility and membership of DPCAC, ongoing need to enhance the community awareness of the group.
* Review the following: formation of DPCAC, mission and purpose, meeting participants, ways we currently publicize meetings, and community outreach
* Review meeting flyer/ publicity materials and brainstorm ways to make it more visually appealing
* Develop list of materials needed for current members to “go and tell” others about DPCAC
* Brainstorm list of community groups in which current members participate
* Brainstorm ways to publicize DPCAC in the community
* Prioritize efforts to increase visibility
* Form 2-3 committees for efforts: publicity, membership gaps, community events

*Monday, May 20, 2024 – Flaring 101*

* Community members are interesting in learning the following about flaring:
* What is flaring and why is it necessary?
* What are the different types of flares and what they are used for?
* What is the difference between routine flaring and safety flaring?
* How can flaring be mitigated?
* How does flaring impact plant emissions?

**Dates for 2024 -** all Mondays

Jan. 22  
Feb. 26

Mar. 25

Apr. 22

May 20

No June meeting

No July meeting

Aug. 26

Sept. 23

Oct. 28

Dec. 2

No December meeting

Deer Park Community Advisory Council

**Input on Annual State of the Plants Report**

February 26, 2024

**General Comments**

1. **Anything you were happy to hear?**

* Safety performance
* Safety focus
* Injuries overall were down.
* Lower injury rates.
* Updates on spills
* No spills focus
* Plant reviews shared.
* Shell’s unit is back up and running.
* Overall, the trend is steady. A few hiccups but status quo is the norm.
* Environmental and occupational safety updates form plants.

1. **Any concerns about what you heard?**

* No, short and concise.

1. **Any questions?**
   * Why aren’t we involved in Deer Park Talk?
   * Help with acronyms.
   * Acronym bingo cards
2. **Should we continue having this report each yet? If so, what can we do to improve the report?**

* Yes, please continue
* Yes, we should continue.
* Yes, very informative
* Good if many full monthly reports.
* Yes, reports are good.
* Yes, we the community like the information provided and the ability to ask questions.
* Yes, but maybe share for a longer period of time in this report.
* Yes, but some speakers need to speak into the microphone.
* Consider consolidating the ask to create structure to the updates.
* Hard to gauge improvement- information overload but also no comparison of data.

1. **Anything Anne should consider when making decision to cancel meeting due to severe weather?**

* No
* No complaints cancelling for safety. It’s always hard but you have the input/ info from experts.
* Not sure what travel radius from plants, but good to focus on safety.
* Agree we should error on the side of caution. No problem with decision.
* No perfect timing.

**Input on DPCAC Visibility & Outreach**

1. **Should DPCAC have a group brainstorming workshop and discuss the following: DPCAC purposes and benefits to community, outreach opportunities, establish membership goals and priorities? Any thoughts??**

* Yes to brainstorming in April
* Always good to brainstorm.
* Yes, there is interest.
* Yes, 100% agree.
* Yes, we support brainstorming.
* Yes, but may be difficult with no newspaper to help spread the news.
* Target group (25-50) is not in attendance.
* We don’t need an entire meeting to brainstorm. Could have discussion again in small groups instead of not having a main topic.

1. **Anything you were happy to hear about**

* the Facebook proposal?
  + Vetting the proposal is good
  + Good platform- way to reach broader group.
  + Great idea- it would hit all the right people.
  + Yes, but no Zoom.
  + Like this proposal, easy to share.
  + Able to link to other content.
  + Facebook may not be the best medium. Also, current members are best advocates for the group.
  + You have to try it.
  + Security measures for the page.
* the STEM Activity meeting proposal?
  + Great idea, kids are biggest driver.
  + Good idea.
  + Not really. Members may not go too far.
  + Good idea, be sure to advertise a free meal. Feed the kids too.
  + A good way to engage people in the target demographic. Also a great STEM activity.
  + Timing
  + Providing childcare would free up parents to participate.

1. **Any concerns about**

* the Facebook proposal?
  + What material is posted.
  + Turn off comments.
  + Want face-to-face
* the STEM Activity meeting proposal?
  + No

1. **What do you need to know before deciding whether to have a DPCAC Facebook page?**
   * Making sure there are checks and balances so that things are not posted without approval from company and DPCAC. Some companies need legal approval before anything can be posted.
   * Does anyone else have Facebook for non-Harris County CAPs.
   * Ensure protection of the Facebook page from hackers.
2. **What do you need to know before deciding whether or hold a meeting where a STEM activity is offered for participants facing childcare restraints?**
   * No concerns with this activity
   * Age of kids- confirm that we are not going outside of school ages.
   * What ages- focus on the right age group.
   * Time constraint with children.

**ATTENDANCE**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DPCAC Community Members** | | **DPCAC Plant Members** | | **Guests/Resources** | |
| x | Ruth Boyd | x | **Clean Harbors,** Bruce Riffel | x | Caroline Alcantar, Shell Deer Park |
|  | Steve Corry, DPISD | x | **Dow Chemical Deer Park,** Sharon Hulgan | x | Manny Cabrera, Dow |
|  | Sheryl DaPron | x | **Evonik Oil Additives,** Jim Bentinck-Smith | x | Kyra Cantrell, Kinder Morgan |
| x | Kristina DeWitty, SJC | x | **GEO Specialty Chemicals,** Steve Outlaw | x | Melissa Caylor, DP Chamber of Commerce |
|  | Ken Donnell | x | **Intercontinental Terminals,** David Wascome rep. by Rich Howes  **John Ferguson** | x | Brett Conaway, Harris County OEM&HS |
|  | Jamie Galloway, DP OEM | x | **Kinder Morgan,** Blake Wood | x | Holly Kurth, EHCMA |
| X | Sherry Garrison |  | **Lubrizol,** Hector Acosta | x | William Lathan, HCPC |
| X | Tommy Ginn | x | **NOVVI**, Alan Kominek, rep. by Bob Wolff | x | Betty Lemley |
| X | Karen Guidry | X | **OxyVinyls PVC/KOH,** Jeff Koetitz | x | John McPhaul, Oxy Vinyls PVC/KOH |
| X | Paul Guidry | x | **OxyVinyls VCM,** Josh Munn | x | Duke Ogega, Evonik |
| X | Cara Herbeck | x | **Pemex Deer Park,** Guy Hackwell, rep by Gary Guilhas | x | Christina Perez, DP LEPC |
|  | Steven Horton |  | **Pemex Deer Park,** Jennifer Walsh | x | Jon Powell |
|  | Gretchen Knowles, Harris Co. Pct. 2 | x | **Shell Deer Park,** Nathan Levin | x | George Tullgren |
| X | Wanda Morris | x | **Shell Deer Park,** Jessica Blackmore | x | Don Zuckero |
|  | Bill Patterson, DP City Council | x | **Texas Molecular,** Jimmy Bracher |  |  |
|  | Ariel Pena | x | **Valvoline,** Robert Shelton |  |  |
|  | Randon Pierson | x | **Vopak Moda,** Jeff Sanford, rep. by JD Abernathy |  |  |
| X | Darrell Pinckard | x | **Vopak Terminal Deer Park,** Kathy Stewart, rep. by Gary Jackson |  |  |
|  | Vickey Roberts | x | **Westlake Epoxy,** Marlene Mercado, rep. by Brad Lyons |  |  |
|  | David Sanchez |  |  |  |  |
|  | Maria Sanchez |  | **Support Staff** |  |  |
| X | Andy Smith, San Jacinto Battleground Historic Site | x | Anne Gowan, Facilitator |  |  |
| X | Angela Smith, City of Deer Park | x | Marilyn Bass, Secretary |  |  |
|  | Charles Thomas |  |  |  |  |
|  | Cheyenne Valdez |
| x | David Wade |
|  | Ernest Weedon |