

Deer Park Community Advisory Council

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Meeting Notes

Monday, September 23, 2024

The 320th meeting of the Deer Park Community Advisory Council was held on Monday, September 23, 2024, at the Republic Grill. Facilitator Anne Gowan reviewed the agenda, which was accepted as proposed. The August 2024 meeting notes were approved without changes.

Annual Report on DPCAC Emissions

DPCAC plants contributed information for the annual report on air emissions, which covered 2019-2023 and is based on inventories most DPCAC plants must file. An Orientation file with background material was e-mailed to the DPCAC list prior to the meeting rather than being presented.

Nate Levin of Shell Deer Park Chemicals reviewed various sources of air pollution, including industry/plants, transportation, biogenic sources, agriculture, and residential heating and cooking. The information in this report focuses specifically on Deer Park CAC Plants. Plant emission sources include boilers, heaters, cooling towers, process vents, tanks, pipes, and wastewater treatment systems. These emissions occur during routine permitted operations, as well as during maintenance, startup and shutdown processes, loading and unloading of trucks and trains, equipment upsets, spills, and weather events.

Additionally, Levin said that the information provided by Shell Deer Park Chemicals reflected abnormal operations of the site in 2023. The site experienced a fire which resulted in increased emissions and a shut down of 30% of their site operations for the remainder of the year. In addition to testing by TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control and the City of Deer Park, Shell employed a third-party environmental monitoring firm, CTEH, to conduct community air monitoring throughout their event response. The results were non-detect; air monitoring did not show harmful levels of chemicals in the community.

Daysha O’Pry of Shell Deer Park Chemicals presented the Emissions Report, which covers the main reasons for change from 2022-2023, analysis of the EPA Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) and the TCEQ Air Emissions Inventory (EI), comparisons with Harris County and the State of Texas, and resources for those wanting more information. 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 2022 to 2023. 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 2019 to 2023 and from 2022 to 2023.

Air Emissions Inventory of Criteria Pollutants	Increase or Reduction from 2019-2023	Increase or Reduction from 2022-2023
Total Criteria Pollutant Emissions	+4%	-5%
NOx – nitrogen oxides	-13%	-13%
VOCs – volatile organic compounds	+6%	+5%
SOx – sulfur oxides	-7%	-24%
CO – carbon monoxide	+14%	+15%
TSP – total suspended particulates	+8%	+2%
Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)	Increase or Reduction from 2019-2023	Increase or Reduction from 2022-2023
Total releases to the air	+7%	+2%
Benzene	-22%	-.3%
1,3-Butadiene	+64%	+71%

Questions and Comments:

1. *What is a normal amount of particles that is harmful?* It depends on the particulate and the EPA limits of that particulate.
2. *Where do you collect the air to get the data?* It depends on the plant and the operations of that plant. Fenceline monitoring, community monitors, calculations based on the input of materials and continuous monitoring are all used in the appropriate situations to gather the data that needs to be reported.
3. *Why is Vopak Exolum Houston exempt from the Toxic Release Inventory?* They had no releases.
4. *Why is ITC not reporting?* John Ferguson of ITC referred interested parties to the Public Information Officer for more information. ITC had a major event in 2019.

For More Information:

- EPA website – Toxic Release Inventory www.epa.gov/tri
- TCEQ website - www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/point-source-ei
- Houston Regional Monitoring website - <http://hrm.aecom.com>

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.

- **OxyChem – PVC/KOH** Jeff Koetitz shared Deer Park PVC/KOH had no reportable environmental incidents during this period. The Deer Park PVC/KOH site had one (1) injury during this period. The plant was selected as the large business of the year by the Deer Park Chamber of

Commerce. The KOH product is used in the manufacturing of soaps, detergents, cleaners, and ice preventor in aeronautics, in herbicides and fungicides and other products. The PVC resins is used in various medical materials like medical grade tubing and blood bags. It is also used in construction materials and wire coatings.

- **OxyChem - VCM** Josh Munn stated Deer Park VCM had no reportable environmental incidents during this time period. The Deer Park VCM site had no injuries during this period. Their product is the key feedstock for the PVC/KOH plant.
- **Texas Molecular** Frank Marine shared that Texas Molecular has operated 19 years without a lost-time accident. Ther TCEQ compliance rating is currently 0.0.
- **Vopak Exolum Houston** – JD Abernathy reported no spills or releases, no recordable injuries or first aids. They have issued some courtesy messages on E-notify when performing maintenance on Ammonia tanks and dock, just in case a faint odor of Ammonia is detected.

Ozone Exceedance Days – Yayma Martinez, TCEQ, provided information about ozone. There are different types of ozone. Stratospheric ozone is good and protects us. Ground-level ozone can be harmful for Seniors and people with respiratory issues. This is what we measure the data for. Texas has a State Implementation Plan to clean the air and meet federal air quality standards. Ozone season is generally March 1 – November 30, which normally has longer periods of sunlight and higher temperatures. When NOx, VOC and Sunlight combine, ground level ozone is created.

She presented the 2024 data and reviewed data from May through September 23rd. See below chart for 2024 data. She compared 2024 data to 2023 data and Deer Park had fewer exceedances in August 2024 and September 2024 compared to the previous year.

Region	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Totals
Houston Region 8-hour > 71 ppb	0	0	0	5	4	8	6	17	6	46
Deer Park 8-hour > 71 ppb	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	6	1	10
Houston Region 1-hour > 125 ppb	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	6	1	10
Deer Park 1-hour > 125 ppb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TCEQ will be conducting aerial surveys in the coastal and central areas of Texas starting no earlier than 9/23 and will conclude by 11/1. Parts of Harris County will be included in the aerial surveys. The helicopter that is being used for these surveys is red with tail number N46GG. This helicopter is equipped with a specialized infrared camera that can image volatile organic compounds (VOC) and other hydrocarbons that are invisible to the eye. As the information is gathered, investigators will be assigned if there are any issues. It could be normal operations, or it may need official enforcement action. Information gathered will be available on the TCEQ website.

Questions and Comments:

1. *Are the reports available in paper print form?* These reports are available online in pdf. She could bring a few paper copies if necessary.
2. *Have you tried normalizing the data with weather? Or trend it?* No.

Plant Host

Gustavo Nery of Vopak Terminal shared that Vopak operates in 23 countries. The Deer Park facility is one of their largest facilities. Vopak Terminal Deer Park is a multi-modal liquid Terminal facility that operates Biofuels, Chemicals, Clear Petroleum products, Base oils and lubricants for their

customers since the 1960's and has an important role in the local supply chain industry. They have 253 tanks, 13 pipelines connected, 24 loading racks for trucks, 4 ship docks, 8 barge docks, and 16 working rail tracks, with 32 total tracks.

Finance Committee

DPCAC needs to fill a vacancy on the Treasury Committee. It is the position vacated when Marlene Mercado left DPCAC. Anne Gowan requested a volunteer from a DPCAC plant. Brad Lyons of Westlake Epoxy volunteered to accept this role.

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.

October 28, 2024 - I've Got Something on My Mind'' - Brainstorming and Prioritizing Program Topics for the Coming Year

December 2, 2024 - Energy Transfer Pipeline Fire

Dates for 2024 - all Mondays

Jan. 22	May 20	Sept. 23
Feb. 26	No June meeting	Oct. 28
Mar. 25	No July meeting	Dec. 2
Apr. 22	Aug. 26	No December meeting

Dates for 2025 - all Mondays

Jan. 27	May 19	Sept. 22
Feb. 24	No June meeting	Oct. 27
Mar. 24	No July meeting	Dec. 1
Apr. 28	Aug. 25	No December meeting

ATTENDANCE

DPCAC Community Members		DPCAC Plant Members		Guests/Resources	
	Ruth Boyd	X	Clean Harbors , Bruce Riffel	X	Ruth Askine
X	Melissa Caylor, DP Chamber of Commerce	X	Dow Chemical Deer Park , Sharon Hulgán	X	Ed Berg
	Steve Corry, DPISD	X	Evonik Oil Additives , Jim Bentinck-Smith rep by Chelsea Ward	X	Jimmy Bower
	Sheryl DaPron	X	GEO Specialty Chemicals , Kwadwo Koosono rep by Mario Saentz	X	Manny Cabrera, Dow Chemical Deer Park
	Kristina DeWitty, SJC	X	Intercontinental Terminals , David Wascome rep by John Ferguson	X	Annette Chavez
	Ken Donnell		Kinder Morgan , Blake Wood rep by Kyra Cantrell	X	John Collins
	Jamie Galloway, DP OEM	X	Lubrizol , Hector Acosta	X	Bubba Coxie, Harris County HS & OEM
X	Sherry Garrison	X	NOVVI , Alan Kominek rep by Bob Wolff	X	Cameron Dewes, HCPC
X	Tommy Ginn	X	OxyChem Deer Park PVC/KOH , Jeff Koetitz	X	Gladys Dworacek
	Karen Guidrv	X	OxvChem Deer Park VCM , Josh Munn	X	Sherrie Fontenot
	Paul Guidry	X	Pemex Deer Park , Guy Hackwell	X	John Groetsch, OxyChem PVC/KOH
X	Cara Herbeck		Pemex Deer Park , Jennifer Walsh	X	Betty Lemley
X	Steven Horton	X	Shell Deer Park , Nathan Levin	X	Yayma Martinez, TCEQ
	Gretchen Knowles, Harris Co. Pct. 2	X	Shell Deer Park , Caroline Alcantar	X	John McPhaul, OxyChem DP PVC/KOH
	Wanda Morris	X	Texas Molecular , Jimmy Bracher rep by Frank Marine	X	Daysha O'Pry, Shell (Presenter)
	Bill Patterson	X	Valvoline , Robert Shelton rep by Hugo Paz	X	Carol Parks, Guest
	Ariel Pena	X	Vopak Moda , Jeff Sanford rep by JD Abernathy	X	Christina Perez, Texas Molecular
	Randon Pierson	X	Vopak Terminal Deer Park , Gustavo Nery	X	Herman Rogers, HCPC
	Darrell Pinckard	X	Westlake Epoxy , Prashanth Hejmadi rep by Brad Lyons	X	Margaret Sartor, ITC
	Vickey Roberts			X	Caroline Speer
	Andy Smith, San Jacinto Battleground SHS		Support Staff	X	Jerry Stewart
X	Angela Smith, City of Deer Park	X	Anne Gowan, Facilitator	X	George Tullgren
	James Stokes, DP City Manager	X	Marilyn Bass, Secretary	X	Wallace Ward, Native Prairies of Texas
	Charles Thomas			X	Dennis Winkler
	Cheyenne Valdez			X	Don Zuckero
	David Wade				
	Ernest Weedon				DPISD Students
				X	Cameron Grochett
				X	Trey Morman
				X	Grant Shepherd

Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Input on Annual Emissions Report

9-23-2024

1. Ask the plants at your table to share one of their emissions reduction goals.
 - a. Valvoline – Everyday general improvements
 - b. Oxy PVC/KOH – Refrigeration improvements
 - c. Westlake - CWT Improvement in Ops and discussions with CWT partners
 - d. OxyChem – reusing flare gas
 - e. Flare optimization
 - f. Install new analyzers on the flare
 - g. Reduce NOx emissions by optimizing boiler and steam production
 - h. OxyChem – Reduce oil change out contaminated with ammonia, couple projects
 - i. Shell DP – Furnace (Burner Management), Flares emissions reduction reliabilities
 - j. Continue to reduce CO2 and CO emissions
 - k. Goal to be CO2 neutral by 2015
 - l. Shell – not have fires
 - m. Dow – Reduce Nat Gas use on fire equipment (flares, thermal oxidizers)
 - n. Flare optimization
 - o. PPE reduction
 - p. Risk assessments

2. Anything you were happy to hear?
 - a. Benzene reduction
 - b. Overall reductions were good
 - c. NOx emissions are down
 - d. Decreases are great!
 - e. Increases were due to weather related mostly
 - f. Good data
 - g. Decreases on emissions for the most part

3. Any concerns about what you heard?
 - a. 1,3 Butadiene
 - b. Increases in 1,3 Butadiene and Benzene
 - c. % higher than other areas
 - d. ITC not putting data out, curious why?
 - e. Increases in emissions
 - f. Not knowing what is normal, what is harmful
 - g. Did the increases cause any concerns to public safety?

4. What can we do to improve the report, itself, both materials and presentation? Consider the orientation packet mailed prior to the meeting and the full presentation.
 - a. Orientation packet was helpful but would be better if there was a crash course in the meeting, verbal
 - b. Help to reiterate
 - c. Move slowly
 - d. Share slides before?
 - e. Don't need it read
 - f. "What is good?", "What is bad?"
 - g. How to get data from EPA, TCEQ, HRM
 - h. Compared to previous years, the formatting was better – less data on each slide.

- i. Data was repetitive, however, still a lot of data to digest.
 - j. Create visual graphics for the data
 - k. Perspective with other pollutants, get the context
 - l. More information on what effect the chemicals have on the environment and people?
 - m. What impact do these have on day to day?
 - n. What is the baseline reference?
 - o. Better than years prior! Easier to understand.
 - p. Email/mail out the acronyms and terms prior to meeting
 - q. Provide what a mile of air measures so we know what to compare in reports
 - r. Add line numbers for normal/safe to each chemical
 - s. Are these things posted anywhere for the public to see?
 - t. Maybe add more on the reasons for the changes year to year
5. What would you like to learn about the Energy Transfer pipeline fire?
- a. Energy Transfer – Who are they? What do they do? Where are they located?
 - b. Explain this – The pipeline was used to transport Y grade natural gas liquids, a highly flammable hydrocarbon mixture used to process plants separating components such as ethane, propane, butane, isobutane and pentane plus.
 - c. More about Pipeline design:
 - i. Why not more protection from vehicles?
 - ii. Shutoff valve requirements?
 - iii. Safety protocols required?
 - d. Why only a chain link fence protecting a dangerous valve?
 - e. How soon did Energy Transfer know there was an issue?
 - f. Do they have a way to know there is a pressure drop?
 - g. Why did the news issue Shelter-in-Place without authority?
 - h. Who was driving the car?
 - i. What are you doing to prevent it from happening again?
 - j. Does Energy Transfer participate in a CAC or LEPC?
 - k. Does this contribute to lack of information with initial incident?
 - l. What benefit did the material in the line provide to the community?
 - m. Riser protection in pipelines areas
 - n. Security management in pipeline areas
 - o. Plans to better secure valve heads
 - p. Why was the valve not better protected?
 - q. Took a long time to find the pipeline owner and to shut it off
 - r. Concerned about terrorism around these stations
 - s. How can we know what pipelines are around us?
 - t. Is there a source of information for Deer Park people about pipelines?
 - u. Does the police, fire department know/was prepared?
 - v. How is investigation going?
 - w. Why weren't there any barricades? Does each company decide?
 - x. Why was fire vertical?
 - y. Do we know why the individual hit the pipeline?
 - z. How many miles of pipeline in Harris County?