

11/1/2011

Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Three Topics Featured at Deer Park Community Advisory Council Meeting

Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) members discussed three distinctly different topics in late October, with all generating lively discussion. Slides may be found at the [Deer Park CAC website](#).

A Chemistry 101 lesson on Bisphenol-Acetone (BPA) described the chemical used to make polycarbonate, a strong, lightweight plastic used in products such as eye glass lenses and vehicle windshields. BPA is also made into epoxy resins for can linings, automobile coatings, electronics, and adhesives. Gary Greivenkamp of Momentive Specialty Chemicals Deer Park plant said BPA's hazards are from toxicity rather than fire or explosion. Workplace hazards are managed with proper containment of materials, procedures for various situations, and personal protective equipment. Though polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins have been in use for decades and extensively studied, proposals to ban products made with BPA emerge periodically. Greivenkamp listed assessments by regulatory bodies around the world that have determined it is safe in contact with food. Studies continue.

Sam Pipkin reported on the Deer Park pipeline digital mapping project, which identified 127 miles of pipeline in the city limits and another 170 miles in the extraterritorial jurisdiction along the Houston Ship Channel. Corridors like the Reliant high line contain many pipelines. Pipeline markers indicate who owns the line, type of liquid or gas being transported, and whom to call in an emergency. Anyone planning to dig deeper than a flower bed should first call 811 to have experts mark the pipelines for free so releases are not caused by digging into them. Pipelines may carry fuels, chemicals, gases, and water.

DPCAC member Jack Heintschel presented highlights from a September symposium sponsored by the six-county Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District "to promote grassroots community and business support for action toward construction of storm surge protection for the Texas Gulf Coast." Presentations covered lessons learned by the Netherlands and Louisiana as well as diverse options to reduce the risk surge poses for people, the economy, and the environment. Building political will and securing funds are major challenges, but speakers emphasized that any option currently on the table will cost less than the \$40 billion spent on Hurricane Ike.

DPCAC is a forum for community-industry dialogue that meets again on Mon. Nov. 28, 2011 to hear results of a study of flares and implications for industry and communities. For details about the 6 p.m. meeting, contact David Vasquez at 281/604-6038.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Each CAC agenda offers time for Updates of various types. At each meeting, on a set schedule, two or three DPCAC plants provide written updates on safety and environmental performance

11/1/2011

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. Below are a few highlights from the October 2011 meeting.

Plants often report injuries or illnesses with the OSHA recordable rate—the rate of injury for about 100 workers working one year. A recordable rate of 1.00 is the equivalent of one injury per 100 workers in a year.

Clean Harbors – In an update covering 6 months, Kevin Honohan provided information on enforcement actions, a change in the wastewater discharge outfall location, an EPA waste treatment inspection, air permits, testing of monitors, and the OSHA recordable rate.

Shell Deer Park – For the period January 1 – September 30, 2011, general manager Mark Byrd reported on safety and environmental performance relative to Goal Zero, enforcement actions, projects to reduce flaring, maintenance turnarounds, business conditions, and hiring.