



Deer Park Community Advisory Council

Summary of April 25, 2011 Meeting

Students Educate DPCAC Members

To understand student views on the environment, Deer Park Community Advisory Council (DPCAC) conversed in late April with two Deer Park High School students and two University of Houston – Clear Lake environmental management master’s degree candidates. Some interesting and informative observations emerged from conversations with Joey Brusco and Brianna Smelley of Deer Park High School and Srinivasan Lakshmi and Diana Cabanes-Prieto of UH-CL. The UH-CL students also brought the perspectives of students in their native countries.

The DPHS students said their classmates look at industry and assume plants do things the way they did years ago. Many believe air quality is bad and would like to know where to get data. DPCAC members welcome student to their meetings, which are a forum to raise concerns like this. Members ask plants how they are improving their environmental and safety performance. They review plant air emissions data as well as regional air quality trends. Visit <http://www.deerparkcac.org> to see what issues we cover. Students find plant tours and interaction with plant environmental leadership to be educational.

The UH-CL graduate students said fellow students are interested in ozone, the links between emissions and health effects, action now on global climate change, and how local residents are warned of releases and risks. They noted several differences between their countries and the US. Cabanes-Prieto sees fewer big cars, more mass transportation, more wind farms, and more nuclear power in Europe. People live in city centers, so there is less sprawl. Srinivasan finds less use of chemicals for crop protection and less processing of food in India. Both have attended other DPCAC meetings and have been pleased to see community and industry working together to address concerns.

DPCAC meets on Monday, May 23 for an update on the “Ike Dike” and other hurricane surge suppression proposals. Speakers will be from the Galveston Bay Foundation and Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. For details about the 6 p.m. meeting, contact Neelam Shah at 713/767-1608.

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