

# Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

www.pasadenacac.org

## Summary of Thursday, December 4, 2014 Meeting

### Annual Report on Air Emissions from PCAC Plants

The annual report of emissions from plant members of the Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council (PCAC) described what PCAC plants make, reasons for the reports, the accuracy of the trends, the common sources of air emissions in plants, and the two inventories from which the data are derived. They are the air emissions inventory (EI) submitted annually to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) submitted each year to EPA. Some PCAC plants do not fall under the reporting requirements due to the type of business, the chemicals they make or handle, or the quantities involved. The main reasons for change from 2012 to 2013 also were reviewed.

New this year were data on total suspended particulates (TSP) and the subset called Particulate Matter 2.5, which are particles smaller than 2.5 micrometers. Though plants have been submitting such data in their emissions inventory, PCAC had not previously requested it.

All emission categories have declined since the first year of data covered in the report, which is 1995 for all but Highly Reactive Volatile Organic Compounds (2006) and particulates (2012). From 2012 to 2013, all categories decreased except for Volatile Organic Compounds, which went up 5%.

Also new this year were two comparisons suggested by members last year. One shows PCAC emissions by category compared to the same categories in Harris County and the state as a whole. The other shows the breakdown of ozone forming emissions NOx and VOCs by source in 2002 and 2011 (cars and trucks, off-road equipment, consumers and small business, and industry). The overall emissions inventory has declined from 2002 to 2011, and the industry and car/truck categories show major decreases, with a smaller decrease in VOC emissions from off-road equipment

The ratio between pounds of products made in PCAC plants and the emissions inventory (EI) is tracked by comparing the pounds of emissions inventory to the millions of products made. In 1995, there were 1036 pounds of EI for each million pounds of product. In 2013, there were 304 pounds of EI for each million pounds of product, a reduction of 71%. Looking at the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Releases to Air, there has been a 76% decrease in this ratio. There were 21 pounds of TRI Releases to Air in 2013 whereas there were 88 pounds of TRI-Air to millions of pounds of product in 1995.

Readers may view Toxics Release Inventory by plant, county, chemical, etc. at [www.epa.gov/triexplorer](http://www.epa.gov/triexplorer). The emissions inventory data may be found on the TCEQ website <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/point-source-ei/psei.html>. Data for 2013 will be available there in January.

## **UPDATES FROM PCAC PLANTS**

### **Reported 12-4-14**

Based on reports submitted by all 17 of the Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council plants, in the month or so since the last plant update:

12 of 17 plants had no environmental reportable incidents

There were no OSHA recordable injuries

12 had neither reportable environmental incidents nor recordable injuries

A total of 6 environmental incidents occurred in 5 plants