

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

www.pasadenacac.org

Summary of Tuesday, September 27, 2016 Meeting

The Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act

After the Bhopal, India deadly toxic release in 1984, Congress added a Title III when they passed the 1986 Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). SARA Title III is the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, referred to as EPCRA. It brought communities 4 programs to make them aware of chemicals releases and chemical inventories and set up a system by which communities must plan for chemical emergencies.

PCAC scheduled the meeting because they are familiar with some of the 4 programs but less so with others. The meeting opened with a chance for members to describe the plant sights and smells that confuse or concern them. John Smith, Training Superintendent at Chevron Phillips, showed photos of commonly seen plant equipment and gave a brief explanation of what each type does; e.g. flares, cooling towers, etc.

To learn what the Southeast Regional Local Emergency Planning Committee (SERLEPC) does, PCAC heard from City of Pasadena Walter Gant Emergency Management Coordinator, and his Senior Deputy, Frank Bengochea. The emergency management coordinators also described Tier II chemical inventories, who has access to them, and how they are used in emergency response and planning.

Pete Greco of LyondellBasell Houston Refinery described the EPCRA notification requirements and the system of reportable quantities on which they are based. PCAC "monthly" plant updates put releases into perspective by comparing the amount released to its reportable quantity, if there is one.

The fourth EPCRA program, the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), was not described at this meeting because it is discussed during the fall's Annual Report on PCAC Plant Emissions, part of which is based on the TRI. Visitors are welcome to attend the October 25, 2016 PCAC meeting when that annual report will be presented. Contact info@pasadenacac.org for details and to RSVP.

The attached fact sheet from the US Environmental Protection Agency website provides an overview of EPCRA and was used as a handout at the PCAC meeting.