

MEETING NOTES

PASADENA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

www.pasadenacac.org

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Via Zoom Video/Teleconference

The 283rd meeting of the Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council (PCAC) was held on Thursday, August 26, 2021, via Zoom Video/Teleconference. The meeting notes from May 25, 2021, were approved without change. Facilitator Diane Sheridan reviewed the ground rules and agenda, which were accepted as proposed.

ATTENDEES *italicized*

PCAC Members

Andrew Aleman, City of Pasadena OEM
Ruth Askine
Diane Barnes, CTHS
Raul Camarillo, Harris Co. Pct. 2
Emilio Carmona
Azell Carter, City of Pasadena OEM
Monica De La Portilla
Tammy De Los Santos, City of Pasadena Parks and Rec.
Ninfa Herrera, City of Pasadena Neighborhood Network
Albert Gonzales
Rick Guerrero, City of Pasadena Neighborhood Network
Mike Jackson
Chad Carson, Economic Alliance Houston Port Region
Luz Locke
Loretta McCarthy
Ellis Orozco

Ernesto Paredes
Margie Pena
Dominick Rezza
Giovanna Searcy
Leon Searcy
Richard Sims
Sue Sims
Joe Valdivia
Elizabeth Cox for Christina Womack, Chamber of Commerce
Jack Womack

Support

Diane Sheridan, Facilitator
Tiffany Miller, Secretary

Observers or Resources

George Alger
Sarah Arroyo, Lubrizol
Vanessa Ayala

Jerry Caraviotis, HCPCS
Rick Deel, HCOHSEM
Dimetra Hamilton, HCPCS
Craig Hill, HCPCS
Tod Jenkins, CIMA
Michelle La Combe
Robbie Lowe
MaryJane Mudd, EHCMA
Sam Striegel, Lubrizol Deer Park
Pat Van Houte
David Wade, HCOHSEM
Blake White, HCOHSEM

CAC Plant Members

Afton Chemical, Buck Tadlock for Hari Sundaram
Air Products, Brian Farhadi
Albemarle, Lisa Fruge, Craig Nelson,
Alyssa Linares, Doug Thompson
BASF, Wendel Langley

Chevron Pasadena Refinery, Matt Postage, Celina O'Connor
Chevron Phillips, Chad Jennings
Enterprise Products, Mark Roberts,
Heather Makarczyk
Ethyl, Buck Tadlock for Antonio Salinas
Evonik, Juan Soto for Nathan Locklar
Gulf Coast Authority, Phyllis Frank
INEOS Phenol, Pedro Hernandez for Amy Narvaez
Intercontinental Terminals, _____
KM Export Terminal, Keith Cormier for David Koetter
KM Liquids Terminal, Keith Cormier
LyondellBasell Refinery, Clint Titzman
OxyVinyls, Scott Halbrooks, Liliana Sarpong
PCI Nitrogen, _____
Sekisui, Jeff Thompson, Scott Stephens

Recent Significant Event at Lubrizol Deer Park (August 15-16, 2021)

The CAC changed its original plans for the August meeting to allow time for a report and questions on a significant industrial event that occurred at Lubrizol Deer Park, a Deer Park CAC facility. The facilitator reminded members that ongoing investigations and lawsuits constrain what the plant can report soon after the event. Meeting attendees submitted questions and comments in Zoom Chat. Any specific responses are shown with the questions below the presentation. Additional questions that were not answered at the meeting are listed after that. Sam Striegel, General Manager, spoke for Lubrizol Deer Park. Azell Carter, Pasadena Emergency Management Coordinator, reported on the city's actions and communications with the public. Dimetra Hamilton and Craig Hill of Harris County Pollution Control Services described the county's air monitoring at the events.

Diane Sheridan summarized input she received from Deer Park, Pasadena, and other communities that expressed frustrations learning what the odor was, its hazards, and steps to protect yourself and your family.

Odor went to multiple cities and counties. The smell varied by nose and area.

- With 2-3 mph winds, odor slowly traveled as far as Dickinson, Friendswood, planes on tarmac at Hobby and beyond--and it lingered.
- Some thought it smelled like rotten eggs, some did not. Some thought it smelled like Mercaptan, some did not. Smelled like a blend to some and burning plastic or burning rubber to others.

It was more than a nuisance for many

- Most communications referred to the odor as a **nuisance**, but many had physical symptoms as it **irritated** noses, eyes, and throats and caused headaches and nausea or vomiting.

Chemical name and its hazards not made clear

- Hydrogen sulfide? Mercaptan? Something else? Confusing when county said it was hydrogen sulfide but also that it had not detected any.
- Those who tried could not find a Safety Data Sheet for “organic sulphur material.” Some called Lubrizol and were told the SDS could not be released to the public and to call their fire department. Fire department said to contact Lubrizol.
- Noses detected the odor even if instruments did not. *Non-detectable by air sampling does not mean no information or action is needed.*

Few cities warned community how to protect themselves and those for whom they are responsible

- Only La Porte and Seabrook issued a shelter in place, so most not told to turn off AC to keep odor out. Odor decreased but lasted after the shelter was lifted. Many became aware of the event when awakened by the smell.
- Lubrizol posted information on the industry CAER app. An elected official promoted CAER for warnings, but it cannot push out alerts. Cities do that. Many may not know they must sign up for notifications from city/cities if they don't have land lines.
- Many did not know to open windows and air out houses the next morning or when it was safe to do so. Some could not do so before work, so odor settled in.
- People unsure how to protect themselves and families; e.g family with a 7 month-old recovering from RSV and COVID. Clear Lake Regional Hospital turned off infant warmers in labor and delivery rooms because they did not know if the odor could impact newest lives.
- Many got information from NextDoor or other neighborhood social media sites. More than 500 comments on NextDoor about the event and 800 responses to a Clear Lake resident's NextDoor poll asking about physical symptoms.

People also fear the chemical harmed flora and fauna

- Trees, pets, squirrels, birds, honeybees.

Role for Harris County to communicate in such a large event

- At least when an event impacts multiple cities in the county and beyond. Frustration that county can push amber alerts, blue alerts, and COVID info but does not inform residents about a chemical release.

Plant Presentation: Statement from Lubrizol Deer Park - August 25, 2021

Texas Facilities General Manager Sam Striegel represented Lubrizol Deer Park, with Sarah Arroyo as a resource.

“Dear Pasadena CAC Members,

We are deeply sorry for the impact our incident had on our area communities. The health and safety of our workers, communities and the environment are our top priority. We have been in this community since 1951 and we will work to regain your confidence as a trusted community partner.

Before detailing the incident and what was released, we want to affirm three things:

- 1. Health and Safety of the Community: Air monitoring measurements confirm no expected health risk to surrounding communities tied to this incident, though we do understand and regret that some individuals experienced irritation. We sincerely apologize for that.*

The primary source of the odor Sunday night was mercaptan, an organic sulfur material widely used to odorize natural gas because of its distinctive unpleasant smell, but not harmful to the community in this case.

- 2. Lubrizol values our strong partnerships with the local officials, Harris County and other agencies. As part of our response to the incident, we were in regular contact with local authorities and submitted continuous updates as part of the e-notify/CAER system.*

We will be partnering with EHCMA (East Harris County Manufacturing Association) to work with the local agencies to better understand how all parties can improve the flow of information during events to ensure that all know how to respond. There is a deep investment among all partners in getting this right.

- 3. Internal investigation: We are completing an on-site investigation and sharing learnings across our site and across our organization to make sure this cannot happen again.*

What Happened?

On August 15th, we were in the process of heating a stable material (a grease additive) in a railcar, so that we could further process the material. The material was over heated during this process, triggering a decomposition reaction, which released heat and increased the pressure in the car. Eventually the increased pressure caused the relief valve to lift releasing the highly odorous material.

Upon notification of the event, our Emergency Response Team (ERT) immediately reacted. This included notifying our employees, our industry neighbors, and local officials, conducting fence-line and local community air monitoring, and safely stopping the release.

What was released?

The SDS we provided to Harris County Pollution Control, Harris County Office of Emergency Management and Deer Park Fire Department reflecting the material in the railcar is a zinc phosphate blend (Zinc Alkyls Diphosphate) product. A reaction occurred that caused the material blend to break down in the rail car primarily into mercaptans, hydrogen sulfide, and amines.

We continuously monitor air quality as part of our day-to-day operations. When this event occurred, we immediately mobilized additional air monitoring. During the release and response, the air monitoring results we saw indicated non-detectable levels for all the expected by-products throughout the event in the local communities. Lubrizol and multiple parties - including Harris County Pollution Control, Community Fire Departments, and CTEH conducted community air monitoring. While they weren't present at levels detectable to air monitoring devices, the low odor thresholds still impact us.

Communities experienced a pungent smell even though there were no detectable levels of the referenced chemical compounds because these materials have an extremely low odor threshold (the lowest concentration in which you can smell the chemical). It's important to understand that odor thresholds for some materials are much lower than the capability of air monitors to detect. Air monitors measure mercaptan as a "non-detect" if it is less than .05 parts per million but many people can smell mercaptan at .002 parts per million. This is comparable to one milliliter (less than a teaspoon) of water in an Olympic sized swimming pool. It is one of the reasons why mercaptan is used as an odorant for natural gas.

Thank you for allowing us to provide this update. We are appreciative to all cities and organizations involved in providing updates on this matter. Lubrizol is committed to being the community partner that you expect us to be."

Q & A

- *Did the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) provided to emergency personnel contain hazard information on the chemicals produced in the decomposition reaction? The SDS lists the chemicals that are produced in a decomposition reaction, but not the hazards associated with them.*
- *How was the railcar being heated? By steam.*

Additional Comments:

- *It was just a bad smell for me, not irritating but my daughter is allergic to Sulphur based compounds and she had some burning watery eyes with minor throat irritation we are in Pasadena off Preston and Spencer.*

City of Pasadena

City of Pasadena Emergency Management Coordinator Azell Carter briefly described the city's response to the event. The City of Pasadena was not involved in the response to the event, as it did not occur within the city's jurisdiction. Based on information provided by Lubrizol Deer Park and conversations with the City of

Deer Park, it was determined that there was no impact to Pasadena. The OEM used various social media platforms to inform citizens about the incident. Carter noted that this incident highlighted a need to clarify several things: emergencies versus non-emergencies, the city's role in incidents outside its jurisdiction, and improvements in how information flows from the affected facility to the city, then on to the community. Carter emphasized the city can only work with the information they receive from the facility. He is willing to work with Lubrizol, EHCMA, Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and others, on such issues.

Harris County Pollution Control Services (HCPCS)

Dimetra Hamilton reported that the team was giving updates through various social media platforms and that HCPCS received hundreds of complaints regarding the odor event. Craig Hill said they dispatched someone to Lubrizol Deer Park after receiving notification from the plant. They monitored in downwind neighborhoods till about 1:00 a.m. and started again about 3:45 a.m. when complaints picked up. They ceased monitoring at about 3:30 p.m. the day after the release. Hill shared that they monitored where they received odor complaints in Harris County and beyond. No detectable impact to the community was observed as far air quality/environmental issues showing up in the various neighborhoods. Hill said HCPCS is still investigating the event.

When they conduct monitoring during an emissions event, the person doing the sampling inputs the data into the HCPCS system, and it is displayed on their website in near real-time. .

Hamilton shared the following contact information for HCPCS, links for the complaint form, mobile air monitoring map, and for a survey regarding the concern for pollution in the community. When impacted by an event, call the Complaint Line phone number as it takes longer for a response to the Complaint Form.

Website: <https://pcs.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Complaint Line: (713) 920-2831

Main Email for general inquiries and complaints: pollution.control@pcs.hctx.net

Online Complaint Form: <https://webapps2.harriscountytexas.gov/PCSComplaintForm/complaint-form>

Mobile Air Monitoring Map: <https://pcs.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/mobilemonitoringdata.aspx>

Harris County Pollution Control is conducting research on your concern for pollution in your community. The survey should only take 5 minutes, and your responses are completely anonymous. Please access the survey here: <http://bit.ly/2Kojtal>

Q & A

- *What air concentration would have led you to manage the incident as higher risk than "odor"? If a detectable level on a contaminant is measured, we reach out to our in-house toxicologist to determine the next step.*

Additional Comments:

- A suggestion - it seems to me that the emergency responders need an understanding of the air concentration that represents an elevated risk to the community as soon as possible, even if the current concentrations are below instrumental detection limits. It is conceivable that instrument detection limits, like odor thresholds, can be higher than impact thresholds. I think that it would be

better for them to pursue an understanding of the risks even when the concentrations are below instrument detection limits.

Event Notifications for Agencies with Personnel on the Ship Channel and for People Traveling through the Area

David Wade, Industrial Liaison in the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HCOHSEM), was asked to respond to two questions that arose during Program Planning in May. He shared information about the notification process for those traveling via roads or waterways in an affected area. The Harris County Sheriff's Security Monitoring and Analysis Center (SMAG), located at the Coast Guard Station at Ellington, can communicate with marine units on the various waterways. SMAG is now connected to the e-Merge and e-Notify systems that the local industry uses. HCOHSEM can trigger TxDOT signs on roadways to inform commuters of issues.

Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA)

Slides posted at www.pasadenacac.org

Tod Jenkins, Chair of Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA) presented a brief overview of the organization. CIMA is a volunteer organization of over 100 dues paying members that includes industry and local fire departments covering Harris and Chambers Counties. CIMA has established many programs to provide an organized response in times of disaster such as: a centralized dispatch system for the radio network; pre-arranged alarm list database for members; a multi casualty incident plan; and roadblock committees. Jenkins described the organizational structure, available resources, and the process for requesting CIMA assistance.

UPDATES

Air Products Update on Noise Issue- Brian Farhadi, Plant Manager, shared that the company has found a company that specializes in noise investigations and mitigation efforts to address noise complaints that have been raised at PCAC.

Hurricane Ida- Blake White, Industrial Liaison in the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HCOHSEM), provided an update on the county's readiness for Hurricane Ida (which was a tropical storm at the time of the meeting.)

Program Plan for 2021-2022- Diane Sheridan reviewed the topics in the proposed Program Plan for 2021-2022 which was then adopted by the members present. The adopted program Plan will be posted on the PCAC website in the Members section. Sheridan indicated that with the recent increase in COVID cases, the CAC will continue to meet via Zoom at least through the fall.

City of Pasadena Neighborhood Network- Ninfa Herrera provided contact information for the Pasadena Industrial Community Network (PICN) "Team Up to Clean Up" event on October 16. If you are interested in donating, please contact Brenda Pritchard at 713-920-7930 or Ninfa Herrera at 713-475-5578. Herrera also mentioned that Rick Guerrero is the new Manager for the Neighborhood Network.

FACILITY UPDATE SUMMARY

Acronym List on PCAC website

Plant representatives reviewed highlights of the written reports projected on the screen, and they responded to questions. The update summary was mailed to attendees before the meeting and then to the membership on August 27. Direct questions to Diane Sheridan facilitator, dbsfacilitator@gmail.com, 281-326-5253.

In a Nutshell:

- Updates were received from 17 of 18 plants (None from PCI Nitrogen)
- **2** had reportable environmental incidents (5 at Chevron Pasadena Refinery; 1 at LyondellBasell Houston Refinery)
- **1** had OSHA recordable injuries. (1 each at OxyVinyls)
- **14** had neither environmental nor safety incidents

15 plants had no environmental incidents:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Afton Chemical | 7. Ethyl | 13. Kinder Morgan Liquids Terminal |
| 2. Air Products | 8. Evonik | 14. OxyVinyls |
| 3. Albemarle | 9. Gulf Coast Authority | 15. Sekisui |
| 4. BASF | 10. INEOS Phenol | |
| 5. Chevron Phillips | 11. Intercontinental Terminals | |
| 6. Enterprise Products | 12. Kinder Morgan Export Terminal | |

16 plants had no safety incidents:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Afton Chemicals | 7. Enterprise Products | 13. LyondellBasell Houston Refinery |
| 2. Air Products | 8. Ethyl | 14. Kinder Morgan Export Terminal |
| 3. Albemarle | 9. Evonik | 15. Kinder Morgan Liquids Terminal |
| 4. BASF | 10. Gulf Coast Authority | 16. Sekisui |
| 5. Chevron Pasadena Refinery | 11. INEOS Phenol | |
| 6. Chevron Phillips | 12. Intercontinental Terminals | |

FUTURE PCAC MEETINGS

Meeting Login begins at 5:45 pm. Meetings are from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. via Zoom video conference unless otherwise indicated.

Tuesday, September 28, 2021 – Effects of Pollution on Health

- Bashar Farjo, MD, a Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Specialist with Kelsey Seybold Clinic, and Blythe Mansfield, MD, Kelsey Seybold Occupational Medicine, will be invited to talk about what air pollution is, kinds of exposure, and specifics about the EPA's criteria pollutants, benzene, and 1-3, butadiene.
- They also will describe environmental and occupational causes of health problems and a systematic approach to history taking and diagnosis of occupational and environmental illness. They also will describe EPA's actions to advance environmental justice related to the topic.

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 – Annual Report on Emissions from PCAC Plants

- Data from PCAC plants will be compiled and presented to show Pasadena industry trends in the EPA Toxics Release Inventory releases to the air and the TCEQ air emissions inventory of criteria pollutants.
- Afton/Ethyl will present this year. Plants take turns presenting the data on behalf of PCAC industry.

DATES FOR 2021

Tues. Jan. 26
Tues. Feb. 23
Thurs. Mar. 25
Tues. Apr. 27

Tues. May 25
No June or July meetings
Thurs. Aug. 26
Tues. Sept. 28

Tues. Oct. 26
Thurs. Dec. 2 (delayed due to Thanksgiving)
No December meeting