

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

Typical Plant Turnarounds

January 25, 2022

Thinking about the impacts a plant turnaround may have on the community, Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council (PCAC) invited its largest plant member, LyondellBasell Houston Refinery, to introduce them to plant turnarounds in general so they could suggest ways for plants to inform the community about these projects, especially large ones. Derek Maytubby presented information about the typical industry timeline and steps for planning a major turnaround, sometimes referred to as a "TA." He shared a definition from the *Project Maintenance Body of Knowledge* and explained that TAs are complex events with many things that need to be considered. The main goal of a TA is to ensure the on-going safe and reliable operation of the units in the plant.

Turnarounds, which may also be called shutdowns or outages or maintenance outages, often include maintenance work, capital projects, inspections and more. The planning process for major turnarounds may start as early as two to three years before the turnaround starts. The turnaround process consists of defining the goals, planning and preparing the approved scope of work, completing the turnaround work, and listing the lessons learned for future turnarounds. Other areas such as the contract workforce and TA logistics, including traffic, are also considered. In general, turnarounds require teamwork, are typically worked around the clock, and involve many different personnel and kinds of activities.

Attendees at the Zoom meeting were divided into breakout rooms to discuss potential impacts to surrounding communities and suggestions for how to keep the community and local businesses informed about the plans for and status of a turnaround. They said turnarounds may increase noise, flaring, and traffic, but they also bring job opportunities and business for motels, RV parks, restaurants, laundromats, and gas stations from the influx of contract workers. Attendees recommended a variety of communication methods to inform residents and business of turnaround plans and the impacts to expect. Suggestions will be shared with PCAC plants for consideration as they plan their next turnaround.