

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

PCAC Discusses Tornado on Zoom Instead of State of the Plants in Person

January 24, 2023

With the probability of severe weather on meeting night, the scheduled meeting of the Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council was switched to Zoom the prior day. When a tornado struck the city a few hours before the meeting, PCAC postponed plans to start the new year with a State of the Plants report to create time to discuss the impacts of what was a disaster for parts of the city. Though some could not attend, many were able to do so. Comments from PCAC plants are summarized below.

Plants were asked whether they had problems as a result of the severe weather and how they prepared, managed, responded, and are recovering. Plants also commented on whether their employees were impacted and how plants are assisting affected personnel.

Some plants experienced power blips, which shut the plant down. Some flared as a result of that or due to impacts from customers or suppliers that shut down. However, no safety or environmental incidents were reported.

These are the types of actions plants took before, during and after the storm:

- Watched the weather, which they do to determine what work to schedule. Some have private weather forecast services.
- Prepared for the wind by tying things down.
- Pumped water out in advance of the rain event.
- Prepared to bring units down if necessary.
- Made decision the day before to defer maintenance work that required cranes.
- Let contract work rest for the day.
- Cancelled outside work scheduled for the afternoon.
- Sent employees home early.
- Went to their designated safe place within the plant. Sheltered in Place if necessary.
- Checked on employees to see if they sustained damage and what help they need.
- Used a mass communications program to reach employees.

PCAC meetings are open, and visitors welcome. Whether you are curious or concerned about industry, come to a meeting to learn more about the 18 plants in Pasadena and to share any concerns about their performance in PCAC's forum for constructive dialogue between community and industry. See the home page for meeting dates and upcoming topics.