

MEETING NOTES

PASADENA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

www.pasadenacac.org

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Revive! Church

The 298th meeting of the Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council (PCAC) was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at the Revive Church, 1062 Fairmont Parkway. Facilitator Diane Sheridan presented a revised agenda to allow discussion of a major plant incident to take place at the start. The revised agenda was accepted as proposed. The meeting notes from February 28, 2023 were approved without change.

ATTENDEES *italicized*

PCAC Members

Andrew Aleman, City of Pasadena OEM
Jed Aplaca, City of Pasadena Parks and Rec.
Ruth Askine
Diane Barnes, CTHS
Hal Burke, City of Pasadena
Neighborhood Network
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.
Albert Gonzales
Rick Guerrero, Pasadena Economic Development Corp.
Mike Jackson
Chad Carson, Economic Alliance
Houston Port Region
Luz Locke
Loretta McCarthy
Lupita Monreal, City of Pasadena
Neighborhood Network
Ellis Orozco
Ernesto Paredes

Margie Pena, Baker Ripley
Brenda Pritchard, City of Pasadena
Neighborhood Network
Dominick Rezza
Giovanna Searcy
Richard Sims
Sue Sims
Joe Valdivia
Christian Rocha, Chamber of Commerce
Jack Womack

Support

Diane Sheridan, Facilitator

Observers or Resources

Vanessa Ayala
John Collins
Matthew Giles, State Rep. Mary Ann Perez
Diane Olmos- Guzman
Ninfa Herrera
Emily Morris
Stuart Mueller, Harris Co. Pollution Control

George Perrett
Diamond Pham, Air Alliance
Sharlissa Truett-Willis, TCEQ
David Wade, HCOHSEM
Blake White, HCOHSEM
Steve Zach, Pasadena Public Library

CAC Plant Members

Afton Chemical, Hari Sundaram,
Air Products, Brian Farhadi
Albemarle, Kevin Paul for Lisa Fruge.
Paul Hernandez
BASF, Alice Johnson for Abe Ahmed
Chevron Pasadena Refinery, Jennifer
Silva for Matt Postage, Nathan Kangas

Chevron Phillips, Andy Woods,
Enterprise Products, Karla Arriaga,
Ethyl, Hari Sundaram for Antonio
Salinas
Evonik, Nathan Locklar, Donovan
Phelan
Gulf Coast Authority, Denise Ehrlich
INEOS Phenol, Amy Narvaez, Pedro
Hernandez, Mitch Clark
Intercontinental Terminals, Jesse Davila
for David Wascome
Kinder Morgan Pasadena Terminal,
Robert Hammons, Scott Eady
KM Export Terminal, Scott Eady for
Mike Dugger
LyondellBasell Refinery, Clint Titzman
Next Wave Energy David Muscat for
Shane Presley,
OxyChem, Scott Halbrooks
Sekisui, Scott Stephens for Jeff
Thompson,

UPDATE ON MARCH 22, 2023 INEOS PHENOL FIRE

PCAC asked several entities for a preliminary update on a fire and explosion at the INEOS Phenol plant on SH 225. Because the event occurred less than a week before the meeting, investigations and debriefings are not yet complete. Once they are, PCAC will ask for an updated report.

INEOS Phenol Plant Manager Amy Narvaez said that at about noon on March 22, a truck was delivering propylene to the site. Propylene is used to make cumene, the site's major product. While hooking up the truck, something occurred that released propylene, which then caught on fire and resulted in a Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion (BLEVE) in the propylene truck. At the time, one nearby truck was empty and leaving the site. Another truck was partly full and delivering propylene.

One of the truck drivers was injured and remains in the hospital but is doing well.

In response to member questions, PCAC learned that the propylene was being transferred from the truck to a large spherical vessel, the pumps were on the truck rather than the vessel, and there was no truck-to-truck transfer. The transfer is common practice; the plant receives up to 20 trucks per day. The truck unloading area has been in use since 1978, but equipment has been updated throughout the years. The truck driver worked for a 3rd party vendor that the plant has used in the past. At the time of the event, there were 23 employees and 21 contractors on site. Propylene burns easily. Most of the smoke from the event was from the truck and truck tires. The plant has air monitors nearby, and they did not detect anything. The plant lost electricity when the event occurred, so the normal means to notify responsible agencies of the event were lost, too. An effort to place an e-Notify message via cell phone was not successful. Narvaez said she will return when the investigation is complete to explain more about what happened and the lessons learned.

City of Pasadena Emergency Managers Azell Carter and Andrew Aleman said the city received an e-Notify posted by OxyChem, a neighboring plant trying to assist, but it was not clear at first where the event had occurred. The city sent a message using Smart911 to the community to acknowledge the event and that there was no need for residents to take protective action. But there is more than one INEOS plant in Pasadena, and the initial message did not clarify which one had the fire. The one on Port Road had an active CAER message because they were doing fire extinguisher training, unaware of the event at the Phenol plant. Carter emphasized that plants should phone him if they cannot use e-Notify to contact the city. In any case, in a major event he will call you back. Carter said that once he has information, he will share it with other emergency management coordinators.

Harris County Industrial Liaisons David Wade and Blake White said they typically respond to events by going to the plant's control room. Because the plant had been evacuated, they instead went to the emergency response command post. This made it harder for them to obtain factual information from the plant to help them assure communications are occurring as needed. Wade said a best practice for an emergency drill would be to practice how you would communicate when you have no power, and the plant is evacuated.

OxyChem Plant Manager Scott Halbrooks said their 5 Houston area sites share an emergency operations center and response and communications system. They place e-Notify messages routinely and sent one for this event to assist a neighboring plant. However, it was not clear at first that the event was not occurring in their plant.

Everyone who spoke agreed there is room for improvement in the communications that occurred. Developing best practices out of a review of this event will be beneficial to all plants.

ANNUAL REPORT ON WORKER SAFETY IN PCAC PLANTS

Slides posted in Member section of www.pasadenacac.org

The *21st Annual Report on Worker Safety in the 18 Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council (PCAC) Plants* was

presented by facilitator Diane Sheridan, who emphasized that the *numbers* in the report tell the stories of *people* injured, and not injured, in PCAC plants. Plants reported data for calendar year 2022. Highlights follow:

- In the 18 PCAC plants, there were **12.3 million work hours** in 2022, which represents an estimated **2651 employees and 3245 contractors**. Plants worked **~2 million** more hours in 2022 compared to 2021.
- **PCAC plants ranged in size from 14,560 work hours at the smallest facility to 3,087,725 hours for employees and contractors at the largest.** That is approximately 7 workers compared to 1,485 workers. 68% of the total hours were worked in 4 of the 18 plants: LyondellBasell Houston Refinery, Chevron Phillips Chemicals, Next Wave Energy Partners (under construction), and Chevron Pasadena Refinery. Each of those worked more than a million hours in 2022.
- **22 OSHA recordable workplace injuries or illnesses** occurred during the 12.3 million hours of work, the same number as 2021. There were **no fatalities** in the 18 PCAC plants in 2022.
- **The weighted average was 0.36.** A rate of 1.00 means 1 injury per 100 workers in a year, so 0.36 is well less than 1 injury per 100 workers in a year. That is the same as saying 3.6 injuries per 1000.
- **10 of the 18 plants had a 0.00 recordable rate**, meaning no employee or contractor workplace injuries or illnesses in 2022. “Zeros are Heroes” in CAC terms. The 10 were Afton, Air Products, Albemarle, Enterprise Products, Ethyl, Gulf Coast Authority, Intercontinental Terminals, Kinder Morgan Export Terminals, LyondellBasell Houston Refinery, and Sekisui. For the first time in its more than 100 years of operation, the LyondellBasell Houston Refinery had 0.00 for its employees and contractors.
- **0.37 was the simple average.** The simple average is based on the number of plants, not on the hours worked. Thus, it treats big plants and small plants the same, rather than recognizing the differences in the number of hours worked. It is affected mostly by small plants, in which a single injury can result in a high recordable rate. Compared to the 0.37 in 2021, the simple average was 2.64 in 2000.
- The **median was 0.00**. The median is the middle of the range when plants are listed from 0.00 to the highest rates. The recordable rates ranged from 0.00 to 1.85 this year.
- There were **5 restricted duty cases** in 2022. Restricted duty means the worker is given another assignment after an injury because he or she cannot perform the usual one.
- There were **8 lost-time cases** in 2022, compared to 16 in 2021 and 31 in 2008. Lost-time cases mean the worker was unable to come to work due to the injury.
- For the second year in a row, **none** of the injuries came from **chemical contact or exposure**. The most common injuries were trips, slips, falls, or walking into something.
- **In 2022, 17 of the 18 PCAC plants had recordable rates better than companies nationwide in the same general kind of business**, when compared by North American Industry Classification System codes, using Bureau of Labor statistics from 2021.
- Comparing its 0.36 rate in 2022 and its 0.43 rate in 2021 to state and national data from 2021, Pasadena plants had a lower rate than the 0.69 rate of American Chemistry Council (ACC) member companies employees. ACC is the trade association for most of the large chemical manufacturers in the US. OSHA data show a rate of 2.0 for chemical manufacturing in the US. In Texas, that rate was 1.20, better than the chemical industry as a whole.
- **PCAC’s 0.36 recordable rate in 2022 was also better than the 2021 national record of businesses typical in Pasadena**; e.g. 6.10 hospitals, 3.50 education and health services, and 1.90 for auto repair and maintenance.
- OSHA data may be found at the Bureau of Labor Statistics website www.bls.gov under “workplace injuries.”

Emphasizing that the safety report *numbers* are really about *people*, Sheridan said 22 out of approximately 5895 workers in PCAC plants were injured in 2022, and no one wants injuries. Twenty years ago, the work hours were nearly identical, but 73 workers were injured.

Small Group Discussion

Community members: What are your impressions when you see and hear the safety report?

- Continued improvement
- The public hears about the explosions, etc. but the total number is still very small, relative to all other industries.
- Vets have hard jobs!
- Conscious effort to improve
- Training, equipment, training
- Improvement in safety from 2002 to 2022.

Plant members: Why are there so few injuries in your plant that require a doctor's intervention? (22 among ~5895 employees and contractors in PCAC in 2022)

- First focus for everyone is safety, no matter what
- Increasing the number of safety professionals
- Everyone's ownership has increased
- Safety programs
- Lessons learned
- Engineering out risks
- Safety equipment
- Better technology and intervention
- Focus
- Safety culture
- Tailgate meetings
- Training strong focus on safety
- Education, awareness, culture, focus

All: What's the best thing about the Annual Safety Report?

- Continued improvement
- Comparisons with other industries
- Comparisons between years
- Importance of seeing downward trends of injuries
- Trends are good
- Chemical industry v other industries
- Correlation of VPP vs safety metrics
- The sharing of knowledge, awareness, employee, and contractor division.
- Especially like the trend comments.
- Great to see lower safety injuries.
- Benchmarking

All: What about the report needs improvement?

- Maybe a bit long – but answering questions over the last 20 years
- None – concise report
- Include info about VPP and OSHA challenge

- Question: Are fatalities removed from worker injury data? Not sure how that data is segregated. Injury only, etc. (NOTE: There were no fatalities in PCAC in 2022. If there had been, we would have included them when counting injuries. OSHA publishes a separate chart about fatalities.)

All: Anything about anything else?

- The plants are very open about information, which is very positive.
- Surprised/impressed that La Porte had 43 plants. Are these manufacturing or what are they? (NOTE: They are nearly all chemical plants. No refineries.)

HOST PLANT INTRODUCTION: Chevron Phillips Pasadena Plastics Complex

Plant manager Andy Woods said that the Chevron Phillips Pasadena Plastics Complex makes 2.4 billion pounds of polyethylene each year. It goes into 140,000 different applications. Many of its uses, like food packaging and household containers, are part of our daily lives. Chevron Phillips is heavily involved in plastics recycling and sold its first “green” polyethylene asphalt this month.

PLANT UPDATE SUMMARY

The Update Summary was mailed to attendees shortly before the meeting and mailed to all members the day afterward. Direct questions to Diane Sheridan facilitator, dbsfacilitator@gmail.com, 281-326-5253 or raise questions at the next meeting.

In a Nutshell:

- Updates were received from 17 of 18 plants – INEOS Phenol reported at the meeting about an event but did not submit a written update
- **0 of 17** had no reportable environmental incidents
0 of 17 had OSHA recordable injuries
- **17 of 17** had neither environmental nor safety incidents

17 plants had no environmental incidents:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Afton Chemicals | 8. Ethyl | Terminal |
| 2. Air Products | 9. Evonik | 14. LyondellBasell Houston Refinery |
| 3. Albemarle | 10. Gulf Coast Authority | 15. Next Wave Energy Partners |
| 4. BASF | 11. Intercontinental Terminals | 16. OxyChem |
| 5. Chevron Pasadena Refinery | 12. Kinder Morgan Export Terminal | 17. Sekisui |
| 6. Chevron Phillips | | |
| 7. Enterprise Products | 13. Kinder Morgan Liquids | |

17 plants had no safety incidents:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Afton Chemicals | 8. Ethyl | 13. Kinder Morgan Liquids Terminal |
| 2. Air Products | 9. Evonik | 14. LyondellBasell Houston Refinery |
| 3. Albemarle | 10. Gulf Coast Authority | 15. Next Wave Energy Partners |
| 4. BASF | 11. Intercontinental Terminals | 16. Oxy Vinyls |
| 5. Chevron Pasadena Refinery | 12. Kinder Morgan Export Terminal | 17. Sekisui |
| 6. Chevron Phillips | | |
| 7. Enterprise Products | | |

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PCAC member Christian Rocha said the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce is lobbying the Texas Legislature in support of industry matters including carbon capture and storage. She encouraged Pasadena voters to attend the April 4 Meet the Candidates event, and she promoted the May 4 golf tournament honoring Kaneka as Industry of the Year. For details, contact Rocha at 281-487-7871 or christian@pasadenachamber.org.
- Brenda Pritchard of the City of Pasadena Neighborhood Network encouraged plants and community members to sign up to assist with the city's annual Team Up to Clean Up event, to be held this year on October 14 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. It assists eligible homeowners with projects that they are physically or financially unable to complete. Seniors, veterans, and disabled residents are often among the recipients of this program. Contact her at BPritchard@pasadenatx.gov or 713-920-7930.
- Hal Burke is the new Director of the Neighborhood Network. Rick Guerrero now heads the city's Economic Development Corporation.
- If you are not already signed up to receive emergency notifications from the City of Pasadena, text **PTXREADY** to 77295 or go to www.pasadenatx.gov/readypasadena

FUTURE PCAC MEETINGS

Dinner available at 5:30 pm. Meetings are from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 – In-Person Tour of City of Pasadena Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

- Attendees will gather at 5:30 at the city's EOC for an overview of emergency management and communications. It will begin over dinner and be followed by a tour and discussion of what happens, step by step, when an incident at a Pasadena plant is reported to the city, public action is needed, and the city activates its community warning systems.
- Details about location, parking, and directions will be provided in the agenda.

Asked for input about a proposed meeting on recycling, one group suggested inviting just corporations

that have innovative recycling initiatives. Another suggested asking all plants to discuss their recycling programs. They also wanted a report on city recycling.

DATES FOR 2023----- All 4th Tuesdays!

Tues. Feb. 28
Tues. Mar. 28
Tues. Apr. 25

Tues. May 23
No June or July meetings
Tues. Aug. 22
Tues. Sept. 26

Tues. Oct. 24
Tues. Nov. 28
No December meeting