

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council at Age 33

and How to Improve



PCAC at Age 33

# PCAC Grew Out of Responsible Care

- Responsible Care established in 1988 by Chemical Manufacturers Association, now the American Chemistry Council
  - Continuous improvement in plant environmental, safety, other performance in response to public input. Encourages community advisory councils like PCAC. I served on its Public Advisory Panel for the first 9 years.
- Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council was third CAC in east Harris County. Now one of 9 here and 125+ in US
- 1990 Steering Committee developed mission, groundrules, picked charter members, chose name
- January 1991 -- first PCAC meeting, at PISD Admin. Bldg.

# What is a Community Advisory Council?

- Small group reflective of community
- Meets routinely with petrochemical plant managers
- For constructive, face-to-face dialogue
- Focuses on health, safety, and environment and other quality of life issues
- Advises plants how to improve in response to community concerns and expectations

#### PCAC's Mission



To provide a forum that opens dialogue between community and industry, addresses issues of interest to both, and promotes awareness and understanding of those issues.

#### How PCAC Advises PCAC Plants

- Chooses industry-related meeting topics about which the public has questions, concerns, or suggestions for plants
- Plant Updates each meeting let members discuss incidents, injuries, business news, etc.
- Q&A, small group discussion, worksheets
- Contact the facilitator and ask her to share your concerns—or talk to a plant manager directly
- Advice comes more often as a question than as a request

#### 18 PCAC Plants

- Afton
- Air Products
- BASF
- Chevron Pasadena Refinery
- Chevron Phillips
- Enterprise Products
- Ethyl
- Evonik
- Gulf Coast Authority

- INEOS Phenol
- ITC
- Ketjen (was Albemarle)
- Kinder Morgan Export Terminal
- Kinder Morgan Pasadena Terminal
- LyondellBasell Houston Refinery
- Next Wave Energy Partners
- Oxy Vinyls
- Sekisui

# Members and Meeting Participants

18 member plants in Pasadena, all north of SH 225 Individual community members. Reps from organizations serving Pasadena

~220 community and plant reps on mailing list Membership aims to reflect the makeup of Pasadena

Meetings open and visitors frequent

Parts of City of Pasadena in BAYCAP and SEACAP CACs Focus on **Issues**:

Plant Updates

Annual Reports

Main Topics

Plant updates for each meeting Environment, safety
Business news and
community
involvement
Recent activities and
plans.

Annual Reports Worker Safety
Plant Emissions
In PCAC Plants



### www.pasadenacac.org

# Outreach to Community

City of Pasadena and Chamber of Commerce website calendars

Meeting notice sent to *Pasadena Citizen* 

Speeches

# Key Points in Groundrules

Adopted 1991. Last revised 2011-2012. Italics means we not following that groundrule.

#### What Groundrules Cover

- Mission
- Purposes/Objectives
- Area to Be Served
- Membership
- Meetings of PCAC
- Relationship between Community and Industry Members
- Role of the Facilitator
- Communications
- Website

# Missions and Purposes

To provide a forum that opens dialogue between community and industry, addresses issues of interest to both, and promotes awareness and understanding of those issues

- Industry and community work together to educate community about who industry is, their operations, what they do for community
- Community and industry work together to improve industry's understanding of community concerns
- Industry shares its operating philosophy so community can assess its performance and work with industry to bring about changes to improve the quality of life in Pasadena

### Membership

- Community members live or work in area to be served. Membership includes individuals and organizations
- Members should be civic-minded, willing to speak out and listen, trustworthy, and committed to work of PCAC
- PCAC as a whole should reflect the diversity of the community in many ways. Large enough to provide diversity but small enough to promote dialogue
- PCAC is nonpartisan
- Members may send subs. Periodically asked to renew their commitment
- Members fill vacancies. May drop people who miss two meetings in a row without an excuse

# **PCAC** Meetings

- Meetings are to carry out mission and purposes, not for solicitation
- Program Plan based on input from all but priority given to community interests
- Informal but orderly, consensus rather than voting, professional facilitator, all encouraged to participate in discussion, no personal attacks
- Open to the public and media
- Observer comment period at end of meeting for non-members to comment

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# Relationship between PCAC Community and Industry Members

- Sponsored by members of EHCMA Pasadena Outreach Group. Non-EHCMA plants pay dues through the outreach group
- Plant manager is the plant member; may send sub. Plants participate in discussion, but decisions are guided by the will of PCAC community members
- Typically, one rep per plant so there are more community than plant reps at the meeting
- Plant dues cover facilitation, catering, room rental, website, αnd mailings

#### Role of Facilitator

- Helps the group organize its work, prepares agenda, conducts meetings, maintains mailing list, prepares meeting notes and other materials
- Works at the direction of PCAC

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#### Communications

- Members approve meeting notes
- Products like news releases and other public communications drafted by facilitator and edited by members and speakers. (Have not had an Editing Committee for years, so facilitator drafts website content and "secretary" checks it.)
- Products of group not released without agreement from the group.
- No spokesperson unless PCAC designates someone. You speak for yourself, not PCAC.
- If media inquiries, facilitator may describe group and provide community and industry contacts so there is a variety of individual opinion. (Directs inquiries about a plant to that company.)
- Presentations to be made jointly by community and plant rep

#### Website

- Purposes share info about PCAC and what we do, provide feedback opportunity, make it easy for members to access PCAC materials
- Standards support mission and purposes, be unbiased, nonpartisan, tasteful, and well-written. All files in PDF format to maintain their integrity
- Content examples
- Who is responsible for what

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#### Groundrules Revision

- May be amended by consensus among membership
- Reviewed every 3 years.