

LDEQ confirms 85% emissions reduction achieved, DPE's completion of voluntary program

LAPLACE, LA – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality acknowledged in a letter to Denka Performance Elastomer that its St. John the Baptist Neoprene facility completed the voluntary emissions reduction program it outlined with the state, achieving “an 85 percent reduction of chloroprene emissions.”

DPE, the second-largest employer in the parish with over 235 full-time staff, mapped out its ambitious reduction plan in early 2016 just months after purchasing the facility. After beginning the voluntary program in early 2017, DPE installed several new, large pieces of equipment and made many more improvements to units around the facility in less than one year.

In early 2018, DPE continued to optimize its new equipment to ensure it operated as effectively as possible. The company continues to seek additional ways to reduce its emissions, and in 2019 implemented additional reduction projects beyond its agreement with LDEQ.

DPE developed the voluntary program with LDEQ with the goal of eliminating 85 percent of the facility's chloroprene emissions and formally outlined the program in an Administrative Order on Consent with the agency in January 2017. The company completed the projects outlined in the AOC in December 2017 and continued to optimize the new equipment in early 2018 at a final cost of over \$35 million. After reviewing emissions reports for 2019, the first full calendar year that DPE's new equipment operated at full efficiency, LDEQ says that goal has been accomplished.

In addition, ambient air monitoring conducted by the company and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has shown a dramatic reduction in concentrations of chemicals measured at sites around the facility as a result of the reductions DPE completed in 2017.

“Our company is focused on being a good neighbor in St. John the Baptist Parish,” DPE Plant Manager Jorge Lavastida said. “Our voluntary efforts in this program with LDEQ are just one example of the many ways we remain committed to our community.”

About Denka

Denka is a chemical manufacturer headquartered in Chuo-ku, Tokyo. The company specializes in developing business activities on a global scale across a wide range of fields, from inorganic and organic chemicals, to electronic materials and pharmaceuticals. Founded in 1915, Denka has steadily continued to develop and manufacture products that contribute to the development of society by fully utilizing its unique concepts and technological capabilities. Upholding its corporate slogan, “Possibility of chemistry,” the company and its president, Manabu Yamamoto, are committed to contributing to the sound development of society while sincerely tackling the challenges that society is now confronting

About Denka Performance Elastomer

Denka Performance Elastomer LLC acquired DuPont’s Neoprene manufacturing operations at the Pontchartrain Works site in LaPlace in November 2015. DPE employs around 240 manufacturing jobs associated with the Pontchartrain Works production site. DPE intends to make strategic investments in the Pontchartrain Works facility while adhering to a key DPE guideline to develop and supply products that are safe and environmentally friendly. DPE considers the safe production and handling of materials and products and the prevention of their unauthorized release into the environment as its most important mission as a chemical manufacturer.

Reference:

- ” Review of Chloroprene Monomer Toxicity Assessment Performed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency” . February 14, 2020
https://www.denka.co.jp/eng/storage/news/pdf/266/20200214_denka_statement_en.pdf
- ” Statement regarding NATA’ s Toxicity Assessments on the Areas Surrounding Denka’ s U.S. Subsidiary and Initiatives Being Undertaken to Reduce Environmental Burden” June 19, 2019
https://www.denka.co.jp/eng/storage/news/pdf/238/20190619_statement_en.pdf

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