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AIR TOXICS IN REGION 6 – OVERVIEW

The Federal Clean Air Act mandates that EPA issue regulations for control of emissions of air toxics released from specific sources. These are primarily technology-based controls at the specific emission points within a source that release air toxics into the air. While EPA issues these technology-based emissions regulations, states may request and receive delegation to implement the regulations instead of EPA. EPA does not have ambient air quality standards for air toxics as Federal requirements.

EPA supports air toxics efforts by our state and local partners which go beyond the scope of the Federal regulatory programs. These supportive actions include assistance in emergency response efforts and assistance in responding to local air toxics concerns. Ongoing examples include our work on chloroprene and ethylene oxide projects.

- Chloroprene: Beginning in May 2016, Region 6 continues to monitor concentration of chloroprene in ambient air in the community near the Denka Performance Elastomer, LLC facility in LaPlace, LA. EPA is assisting LDEQ to respond to community concerns regarding chloroprene emissions and health risks, and to work with the facility to reduce emissions.

- Ethylene Oxide: While a national concern, emissions of ethylene oxide from 10 facilities in Region 6 with estimated risks of concern were identified in the most recent EPA National Air Toxics Assessment released in 2018. Current and anticipated EPA regulations will not reduce emissions sufficiently in all areas of concern. Region 6 is assisting TX and LA respond to concerns about estimated health risks from ethylene oxide emissions.

State and local agencies may have stricter air toxics requirements than Federal programs. Significant Region 6 state-only efforts to address air toxics concerns include:

- Louisiana and Texas have established state values to limit the amount of air toxics that may be emitted.

- On June 28, 2019, TCEQ announced a public comment period for their draft state Ethylene Oxide Effects Screening Level (ESL) Development Decision Document. EPA continues to talk with TCEQ as they proceed with their state ethylene oxide screening level development.

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