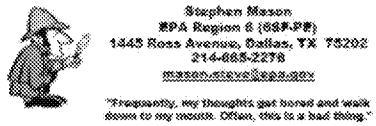
Message

Sent: 3/20/2019 10:59:53 AM
To: Delgado, Paige [Delgado.Paige@epa.gov]; Adams, Adam [Adams.Adam@epa.gov]
CC: Smith, Monica [smith.monica@epa.gov]
Subject: For Daily OPS Report -- 03/20/2019

With Regards, Steve



- EPA continues to participate in Unified Command with TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control Services, and ITC.
- As of 3:00 am, ITC reported that all fires had been extinguished within the tanks. They are now in the process of cooling the tanks with water. Potential re-ignition is possible until all tanks have been sufficiently cooled. Unified Command recognizes the VOC levels may increase now that the fire has been extinguished.
- Several school districts had earlier decided to stay closed on Wednesday due to the ongoing fire-fighting efforts and plume issues.
- The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft conducted a third flight over the ITC fire on March 19, 2019. Plume geometry was assessed with the aircraft with findings showing the plume was about 47 miles in length, 17 miles wide at the largest extent and ranged in altitude from a floor of 1500 feet to a ceiling of 5000 feet. No chemical detections were reported on this flight.
- ITC's contractor, CTEH, is monitoring for VOCs and BTEX under the plume downwind from the fire.
- EMSI has been contracted by ITC to supplement the CTEH monitoring and are utilizing a mobile air monitoring unit. At the request of Unified Command, EMSI is monitoring identified environmental justice areas as well as areas around schools in the downwind areas of the plume.
- 2 EPA contractor teams continue to monitor in areas downwind from the fire site. A few minor VOC readings have been detected, but below health action levels.
- ITC has placed double containment boom along Tucker Bayou. Skimmers are actively removing foam from the bayou and pumping the material into vacuum trucks and storing the material in frac tanks onsite.
- ITC has contracted with an incident management team to help manage the incident. One minor injury has been reported, resulting in a cut hand.
- Instantaneous monitoring of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) continues to be conducted by the responsible party. As of 2030 hours on 03/19, CTEH had taken 427 readings for VOCs, with 2 detections. There are still no readings above health action levels.
- ITC continues to take hourly water samples at the ditch feeding into Tucker Bayou and sending the samples to an outside laboratory for analysis. Initial results are expected to become available between Wednesday. ,
- USCG personnel continue to participate in Unified Command, focusing on water operations in Tucker Bayou (booming and skimming of foam).