Message

From: Bokun, Lisa [Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/23/2019 7:08:39 PM
To: Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]
Subject: PLEASE READ: Congressional Inquiry FW: ITC Update 3.20.19

SF just provided their approval of this response to Congressman Green's inquiry. This is our first Congressional inquiry - we have others now. Please let me know if this is OK to forward to Christian R. in HQ. Does anyone else (like Robin perhaps) need to be included?

Q: I noticed Pygas on the list of impacted chemicals in the latest update. Could you provide more details about the final disposition of the tanks holding Pygas and whether the Pygas had gone through any chemical processes, specifically whether there is any danger of benzene being released? Let me know, thanks!

A: EPA is providing a response to your inquiry concerning the Pyrolysis Gasoline ("Py Gas") involved in the ongoing fire and response at Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) in Deer Park, Texas.

ITC does not manufacture the pyrolysis gas at the facility; rather they simply store and transport the product for various customers. During the incident, there were four tanks containing approximately 96,000 barrels of pyrolysis gasoline within the affected tank farm. Two of the tanks were fully involved in the fire and most (if not all) of the product was consumed during the fire; one tank was involved in the fire, but still contained a substantial amount of product subsequent to the fire; one tank was not fully involved in the fire and retained most (if not all) of the product.
Pyrolysis gasoline is a by-product of high temperature naphtha cracking during ethylene and propylene production. It is used in gasoline blending, as well as a feedstock for the benzene content.
The responsible party, ITC, is working on plans for the final disposition of the pyrolysis gasoline, as well as the actual tanks, which were either heavily to totally destroyed; but no final decision has been made at this time. There are various options they may be able to implement. They are coordinating with the State Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on this issue (who has primacy over this program) to ensure that the final disposition is in compliance with both state and federal regulations.

Pyrolysis gasoline's primary component is benzene, in the range of 10 to 65 %, per the Safety Data Sheet provided by the responsible party. During the fire and subsequently in the hours and days after the fire, there were releases of benzene from the spilled product in the secondary containment walls, or in the damaged tanks.

There were several governmental entities, as well as the responsible party contractors, monitoring continuously during the response in the communities and neighborhoods around the facility. These readings were provided to State and local officials, and any significant readings were immediately passed on to local officials to assist them in making response determinations to ensure the safety of their citizens.

EPA, working with our federal, state, and local partners will continue to oversee the emergency response and recovery to ensure the protection of public health and the environment.

****
Cynthia Fanning
Office of External Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
214-665-2142
****

-----Original Message-----
From: Acevedo, Janie
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 8:50 AM
To: Bokun, Lisa <Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov<mailto:Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov>>
Cc: Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov<mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>>; Fanning, Cynthia <fanning.cynthia@epa.gov<mailto:fanning.cynthia@epa.gov>>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry FW: ITC Update 3.20.19

Please have Cindy run it thru Ronnie please.

-----Original Message-----
From: Bokun, Lisa
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 8:37 AM

To: Acevedo, Janie <Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov<mailto:Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov>>
Cc: Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov<mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>>; Fanning, Cynthia <fanning.cynthia@epa.gov<mailto:fanning.cynthia@epa.gov>>
Subject: FW: Congressional Inquiry FW: ITC Update 3.20.19

This confirms Monica did not approve Steve's response. Don't know that Monica is working today but I do know Ronnie is and he and others are working at Addison, not the RO. lmk if Cindy needs to work it through or if you have time to do.

From: Vela, Austin
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 7:41 AM
To: Bokun, Lisa
Cc: Assunto, Carmen
Subject: Re: Congressional Inquiry FW: ITC Update 3.20.19

No

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 22, 2019, at 7:21 PM, Bokun, Lisa <Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov<mailto:Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov<mailto:Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov<mailto:Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov>>> wrote:

Did we ever get Monica's approval for this?

From: Vela, Austin
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 6:59 AM
To: Bokun, Lisa <Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov<mailto:Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov<mailto:Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov<mailto:Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov>>>; Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov<mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov<mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov<mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>>>
Subject: FW: Congressional Inquiry FW: ITC Update 3.20.19

Still waiting on Monica's approval, but just FYI.

From: Mason, Steve
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 12:49 AM
To: Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov<mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov<mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov<mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov>>>; Vela, Austin <Vela.Austin@epa.gov<mailto:Vela.Austin@epa.gov<mailto:Vela.Austin@epa.gov<mailto:Vela.Austin@epa.gov>>>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry FW: ITC Update 3.20.19

Monica, here is my draft response to the inquiry… please review and edit and forward to Austin…

Matt Rowland,

EPA is providing a response to your inquiry concerning the Pyrolysis Gasoline ("Py Gas") involved in the ongoing fire and response at Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) in Deer Park, Texas.
ITC does not manufacture the pyrolysis gas at the facility; rather they simply store and transport the product for various customers. During the incident, there were four tanks containing approximately 96,000 barrels of pyrolysis gasoline within the affected tank farm. Two of the tanks were fully involved in the fire and most (if not all) of the product was consumed during the fire; one tank was involved in the fire, but still contained a substantial amount of product subsequent to the fire; one tank was not fully involved in the fire and retained most (if not all) of the product.
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There were several governmental entities, as well as the responsible party contractors, monitoring continuously during the response in the communities and neighborhoods around the facility. These readings were provided to State and local officials, and any significant readings were immediately passed on to local officials to assist them in making response determinations to ensure the safety of their citizens.
EPA, working with our federal, state, and local partners will continue to oversee the emergency response and recovery to ensure the protection of public health and the environment.

With Regards, Steve
<image001.jpg>

From: Smith, Monica
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 4:24 PM
To: Mason, Steve
<mason.steve@epa.gov<mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov<mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov<mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov>>>
Subject: FW: Congressional Inquiry FW: ITC Update 3.20.19

Monica Smith
Chief,
Planning, Prevention, Readiness & Response Section (6SF-EA)
214-665-6780 office
469-766-3398 cell
smith.monica@epa.gov<mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov<mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov<mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov>
>

From: Vela, Austin
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 2:43 PM
To: Crossland, Ronnie
<Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov<mailto:Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov<mailto:Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov<mailto:Crosslan
d.Ronnie@epa.gov>>>; Smith, Monica
<smith.monica@epa.gov<mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov<mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov<mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov
>>>; Smalley, Bryant
<smalley.bryant@epa.gov<mailto:smalley.bryant@epa.gov<mailto:smalley.bryant@epa.gov<mailto:smalley.bryant
@epa.gov>>>; Petersen, Chris
<petersen.chris@epa.gov<mailto:petersen.chris@epa.gov<mailto:petersen.chris@epa.gov<mailto:petersen.chris
@epa.gov>>>
Cc: Assunto, Carmen
<Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov<mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov<mailto:Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov<mailto:Assunto.Carmen
@epa.gov>>>; Bokun, Lisa
<Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov<mailto:Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov<mailto:Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov<mailto:Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov>>>;
Fanning, Cynthia
<fanning.cynthia@epa.gov<mailto:fanning.cynthia@epa.gov<mailto:fanning.cynthia@epa.gov<mailto:fanning.cyn
thia@epa.gov>>>
Subject: RE: Congressional Inquiry FW: ITC Update 3.20.19

Just following up on this…if someone could confirm that we are working on processing a response to this Congressional inquiry, I would appreciate it.

From: Vela, Austin
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 2:22 PM
To: Crossland, Ronnie
<Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov<mailto:Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov<mailto:Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov<mailto:Crosslan
d.Ronnie@epa.gov>>>; Smith, Monica
<smith.monica@epa.gov<mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov<mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov<mailto:smith.monica@epa.gov
>>>; Smalley, Bryant
<smalley.bryant@epa.gov<mailto:smalley.bryant@epa.gov<mailto:smalley.bryant@epa.gov<mailto:smalley.bryant
@epa.gov>>>; Villarreal, Chris
<villarreal.chris@epa.gov<mailto:villarreal.chris@epa.gov<mailto:villarreal.chris@epa.gov<mailto:villarre
al.chris@epa.gov>>>
Cc: Assunto, Carmen
<assunto.carmen@epa.gov<mailto:assunto.carmen@epa.gov<mailto:assunto.carmen@epa.gov<mailto:assunto.carmen
@epa.gov>>>; Bokun, Lisa
<Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov<mailto:Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov<mailto:Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov<mailto:Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov>>>
Subject: Congressional Inquiry FW: ITC Update 3.20.19

Please see below and let me know if we can put together a draft response. I will coordinate with Carmen, XA management, and the front office as necessary before responding to the staffer.

From: Rowland, Matt
<Matt.Rowland@mail.house.gov<mailto:Matt.Rowland@mail.house.gov<mailto:Matt.Rowland@mail.house.gov<mailto
:Matt.Rowland@mail.house.gov>>>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 1:43 PM
To: Vela, Austin
<Vela.Austin@epa.gov<mailto:Vela.Austin@epa.gov<mailto:Vela.Austin@epa.gov<mailto:Vela.Austin@epa.gov>>>
Subject: RE: ITC Update 3.20.19

Hi Austin,

I noticed Pygas on the list of impacted chemicals in the latest update. Could you provide more details about the final disposition of the tanks holding Pygas and whether the Pygas had gone through any chemical processes, specifically whether there is any danger of benzene being released? Let me know, thanks!

Best,

Matt Rowland
Legislative Assistant
Office of Congressman Al Green (TX-09)
2347 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515
T: 202.225.7508/ F: 202.225.2947

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P Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Vela, Austin
<Vela.Austin@epa.gov<mailto:Vela.Austin@epa.gov<mailto:Vela.Austin@epa.gov<mailto:Vela.Austin@epa.gov>>>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 11:51 AM
Subject: ITC Update 3.20.19

Please see the attached update for the Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks.

_____

Austin Vela
Congressional Liaison Specialist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 Office of External Affairs
Office: 214-665-9792

<image003.jpg><https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.facebook.com_eparegion6&d=DwMFAg&c=L93KkjKsAC98uTvC4KvQDdTDRzAeWDDRmG6S3YXllH0&r=UieQ2Zii5Ny_E0pG9mj0kd9q7A4Jf5L-gSj1fX8Zi_w&m=UFKThgjkl_nZqa3lk12SUlHstcfvt_R0PHlrmj87Xok&s=ulnSByodOWKF57B8nSqeoOB4jMW1993elarlbFDH6-w&e=> <image004.jpg><https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__twitter.com_eparegion6&d=DwMFAg&c=L93KkjKsAC98uTvC4KvQDdTDRzAeWDDRmG6S3YXllH0&r=UieQ2Zii5Ny_E0pG9mj0kd9q7A4Jf5L-gSj1fX8Zi_w&m=UFKThgjkl_nZqa3lk12SUlHstcfvt_R0PHlrmj87Xok&s=EBDEDViNZ3d9wSSug3a38V9mqDJMbLvuBmbb2M7SzGk&e=>