Message

From: Bokun, Lisa [Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/18/2019 6:03:52 PM
To: Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]
Subject: URGENT : TCEQ wants to publish this quickly. Any heartburn? I have only a few minutes before they publish.

From: Assunto, Carmen
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 1:03 PM
To: Bokun, Lisa <Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov>; Crossland, Ronnie <Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov>; Taheri, Diane <Taheri.Diane@epa.gov>
Subject: TCEQ wants to publish this quickly. Any heartburn? I have only a few minutes before they publish.

News Release

TCEQ assisting ITC fire emergency response

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, March 18, 2019
Media Contact: Brian McGovern
Phone: 512-239-5003; Mobile: 512-839-1142

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is currently assisting emergency first responders with the multi-tank fire at Intercontinental Terminals in Deer Park.

TCEQ is ensuring that the responsible party is taking all appropriate actions to address this incident. TCEQ is providing supplemental air monitoring in addition to monitoring being conducted by a number of other entities, including ITC's contractor.

Overnight on Sunday and on Monday, TCEQ environmental investigators conducted hand-held air monitoring on scene. On Monday, TCEQ deployed two additional air monitoring stations that are being strategically located. Additionally, TCEQ's ambient air monitoring network continues to collect data from stationary monitors in the area.

TCEQ also worked to arrange EPA's ASPECT airplane to provide air monitoring flights over the area.

As of 11:30 a.m. Monday, the smoke plume was reaching higher elevations; therefore, TCEQ has not detected any immediate health concerns at ground level.

At present, this is still an active emergency response event, and TCEQ's role at this time is to provide assistance and coordinate with local governmental agencies, EPA, Coast Guard, and Harris County HazMat for response actions needed to address any discharges from the site.

After the fire is out, and the site is safe to access, TCEQ's role will be to coordinate any clean up warranted through the responsible party, which typically contracts with an environmental company that specializes in these types of clean ups. TCEQ will monitor the progress of the clean up and ensure that any impacted areas are handled appropriately. TCEQ will also evaluate the emissions event associated with this incident and will conduct an investigation to determine compliance with applicable state and federal environmental regulations.

TCEQ will provide updates concerning this incident via this webpage, including a map with real-time data from TCEQ's stationary ambient monitoring sites.

xxx

Sincerely,

Carmen Assunto
State and Local Liaison
U.S. EPA Region 6
Houston Laboratory
281-983-2196