Intercontinental Terminals Co LLC Fire – Deer Park, TX

Background:

- At approximately 10:20 am local time on March 17, 2019, Intercontinental Terminals Company LLC (ITC) discovered a tank on fire and reported the incident to the National Response Center.
- A total of fifteen (15) tanks could have been potentially involved in the fire, which began in a tank of naphtha in the middle of the tank battery. The other tanks contain gasoline, oil, xylenes, Pygas, and Toluene.
- The fire has been extinguished.

Key Points:

- ***What does the Administrator need to know about this issue?***
  - Unified Command includes EPA, United States Coast Guard, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Harris County officials.
  - EPA's primary activity is air monitoring and water run-off sampling.
  - Responsible Party is conducting handheld air monitoring, mobile air monitoring unit, water sampling and removing material from Bayou.
  - This is an RMP facility with updated plan March 2018. RMP facilities are not required to submit updated risk management plans reflecting changes associated with the Amendments until March 14, 2022. ~~Last~~ The RMP Program is not delegated to the State of Texas, and EPA's last RMP inspection was in 2014~~,~~ which resulted in $3,300 fine.
  - High media and Congressional interest.
- ***Are there political sensitivities?***
  - Environmental Justice communities within the area of the plume, which have received additional air monitoring to ensure the constituents of the plume are below action levels.
  - Proximity to densely populated City of Houston, odors and smoke.
- ***Is the Agency planning any major actions on the specific topic?***
  - Environmental monitoring and sampling of both air and water continues.
  - ASPECT continues to test air quality. Deployed March 17, 2019.
  - TAGA ETA is Thursday to conduct community monitoring. Deployed March 17, 2019.
- ***What, if any, are the risks with this issue?***
  - With the fire extinguished, it is likely that air concentrations from unconsumed volatile organics could begin to be higher in the ambient air.
  - Unknown volume of material has entered the nearby Tucker Bayou.
  - Firefighting foams do not contain PFOS. However, fluoroalkyl components that should not enter surface water.

Talking Points:

- To support the State and local responders, the EPA deployed Emergency Response Personnel to the site and activated the Regional Emergency Operations Center in Dallas on March 17, 2019.
- EPA immediately deployed its Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology aircraft, or ASPECT to conducted daily flights over the ITC fire and provided monitoring results and maps to the response personnel. These flights continue.

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- EPA also deployed the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA), is a self-contained mobile laboratory capable of real-time sampling and of outdoor air or emissions which should arrive on Thursday, March 21, 2019.
- All EPA air monitoring results have been below established action levels.
- Information is available to the public at **[HYPERLINK "https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/itc-terminal-fire-update"] and https://response.epa.gov/ITCTankFire .**
- EPA will continue to work with state and local officials to monitor for environmental impacts and ensure that cleanup operations are conducted in compliance with relevant statutes and regulations.

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