Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Morning Update
Deer Park, Texas
March 21, 2019 1200 – March 22, 2019 0400

- EPA continues to participate in Unified Command with TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control Services, and ITC.
- Foam continues to be applied to the secondary containment and tanks to reduce emissions and reignition of hot spots.
- ITC provided a list of foams that were ordered and used during fire-fighting efforts. ITC plans to sample the foam totes for PFOS/PFOA, as well as the water and foam within the secondary containment once it safe to do so.
- The Pasadena, La Porte, and Deer Park ISDs decided to cancel classes for Friday, March 22, 2019. There was a concern that the same weather conditions which created the elevated benzene levels on the morning of March 21, 2019, may occur again on the morning of March 22, 2019.
- EPA conducted surface water sampling at five locations along Buffalo Bayou. One location was above the confluence of Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou, one location was at the confluence of Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou, and three were downstream from the confluence of Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou.
- ITC continues to take water samples every two hours at the ditch feeding into Tucker Bayou and send the samples to an outside laboratory for analysis.
- EPA conducted air sampling using the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) on March 21, 2019. The TAGA analyzed the air samples for benzene, toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results were compared to compared to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results found eleven locations that the short-term AMCV for benzene was exceeded. These locations corresponded to gasoline stations and traffic congestion along the Sam Houston Tollway (Beltway 8). These exceedances of the AMCV for benzene are unrelated to the ITC site.
- EPA conducted handheld air monitoring from March 21, 2019 (12:00 pm) to March 22, 2019 (4:00 am) at 32 locations. Results were reported above the detection limit at one location for total volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and benzene. Benzene was detected at this one location at 0.35 ppm, which is above the short-term AMCVs for benzene (0.18 ppm). EPA notified Unified Command and local officials for further action. EPA will conduct additional air monitoring and deploy the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) to determine if the short-term AMCV for benzene continues to be exceeded.
- ITC continued air monitoring in the communities around the facility. There was one detection of benzene at 1.05 ppm close to the Battleship Monument north of the facility. Subsequent monitoring was non-detect. By 12:30 on March 21, 2019, IT had taken 909 VOC readings/52 detections, as well as 745 benzene readings/51 detections.

- TCEQ, EPA, ITC, and Deer Park officials discussed action levels for issuing shelter-in-place advisories for the city. The city determined to leave the action levels at 1 ppm.
- ITC is developing a waste management plan for the final disposition of the materials within the tanks and secondary containment.
- A very small flash fire occurred at the manifold (at the edge of the tank farm) at approximately 1900 on March 21, 2019, hours due to insulation situated next to a charged steam line. The fire lasted less than five minutes.
- A Rapid Assessment Team (RAT) comprised of ITC, TCEQ, and USCG representatives will visually assess and document the extent of the release along the bayou, starting at approximately 0815 hours.
- The U.S. Chemical Safety Board was on site on March 21, 2019 and interviewed several persons involved in the response. They will be here for several days to conduct the investigation.
- The Texas Poison Control Network received a total of 33 calls from March 17, 2019 to March 21, 2019. Of these calls, 28 calls were possible exposures and 5 were requests for information calls.