Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Afternoon Update
Deer Park, Texas
March 27, 2019 0400 – March 27, 2019 1200

Incident Overview:

On March 17, 2019, an above ground storage tank containing Naphtha, caught fire at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC), LLC facility in Deer Park Texas. The ITC facility consists of 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks containing petroleum products including Naphtha, Xylene, Toluene, Gasoline Blendstock, and Base Oil. Eleven of the 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks on site were involved in the fire, resulting in the release of contaminants into the atmosphere, as well discharging the contents of the tanks to drainage pathways. Firefighting water and foam potentially containing petroleum products were released from an outfall due to accumulation of water from firefighting efforts. Various firefighting organizations assisted in putting out the fire utilizing a variety of firefighting foams.

A partial breach of the tank farm containment wall on the northeast side near Tank 80-7 occurred at approximately 12:00 pm on March 22, 2019, to the ditched area and into Tucker Bayou. Additional boom was placed along the ditch leading to Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (Houston Ship Channel). The Responsible Party's contractor has rebuilt the containment wall using clay material.

At approximately 3:40 pm on March 22, 2019, three tanks reignited. The fire spread from the containment area through the breached containment wall into the ditch along Tidal Road. Foam was applied to the tanks and the ditch to extinguish the fire.

During and after the fire and the breach of the secondary containment, several readings of benzene above 1.0 ppm were detected (highest was 16.5 near National Tank Services) by the various entities conducting air monitoring through the afternoon and night. These readings were located along the ship channel.

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) Captain of the Port is continuing the controlled open for the Ship Channel on March 26, 2019, with traffic during the daytime only. Decontamination vessels are being positioned to help ships that may have residue on the hulls.

Due to the initial fires and subsequent releases, shelters in place have occurred throughout the week of March 17, 2019.

Executive Overview:

- ITC continues foaming of the tanks and secondary containment to prevent reignition and reduce emissions as necessary.
- EPA conducted surface water sampling on March 27, 2019 during reporting period 18 at ten sample locations. Samples were collected from upstream the confluence of Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River in the Old River (at River Terrace Park, Channelview, Texas), confluence of Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River (at the shoreline of Juan Sequin Historic Park), in the main channel of the San Jacinto River just upstream the confluence with Buffalo Bayou, and downstream in the San Jacinto River. The surface water samples will be analyzed for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

(PFAS), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Semi-volatile Organic Compounds, Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), and Oil & Grease.

- Several entities including Harris County, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), EPA, the 6th Civil Support Team, and ITC continue to conduct air monitoring around the tank farm, in adjoining industrial areas, and communities downwind from the facility.
- The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on March 27, 2019 during Flight 14. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC) in Deer Park, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of TCEQ short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs. Isobutylene was detected by the ASPECT at a value less than the AMCV. EPA conducted handheld air monitoring from March 27, 2019 (4:00 am) to March 27, 2019 (12:00 pm) at seven locations. No results above the detection limit have been observed.
- ITC continued air monitoring on March 26 (midnight to midnight); based on their latest report 370 Benzene readings were done with no detects and 614 VOC readings with 4 detects. There continues to be readings above the action levels for benzene close to the tank farm on Tidal Road, and by Dock 4 on Buffalo Bayou.
- TCEQ continued handheld air monitoring between 2:00 pm and 10:00 pm on March 26 (34 readings). No significant readings were detected.
- Vac truck operations at Tucker Bayou and the outfall ditch continue on 24 hour basis.

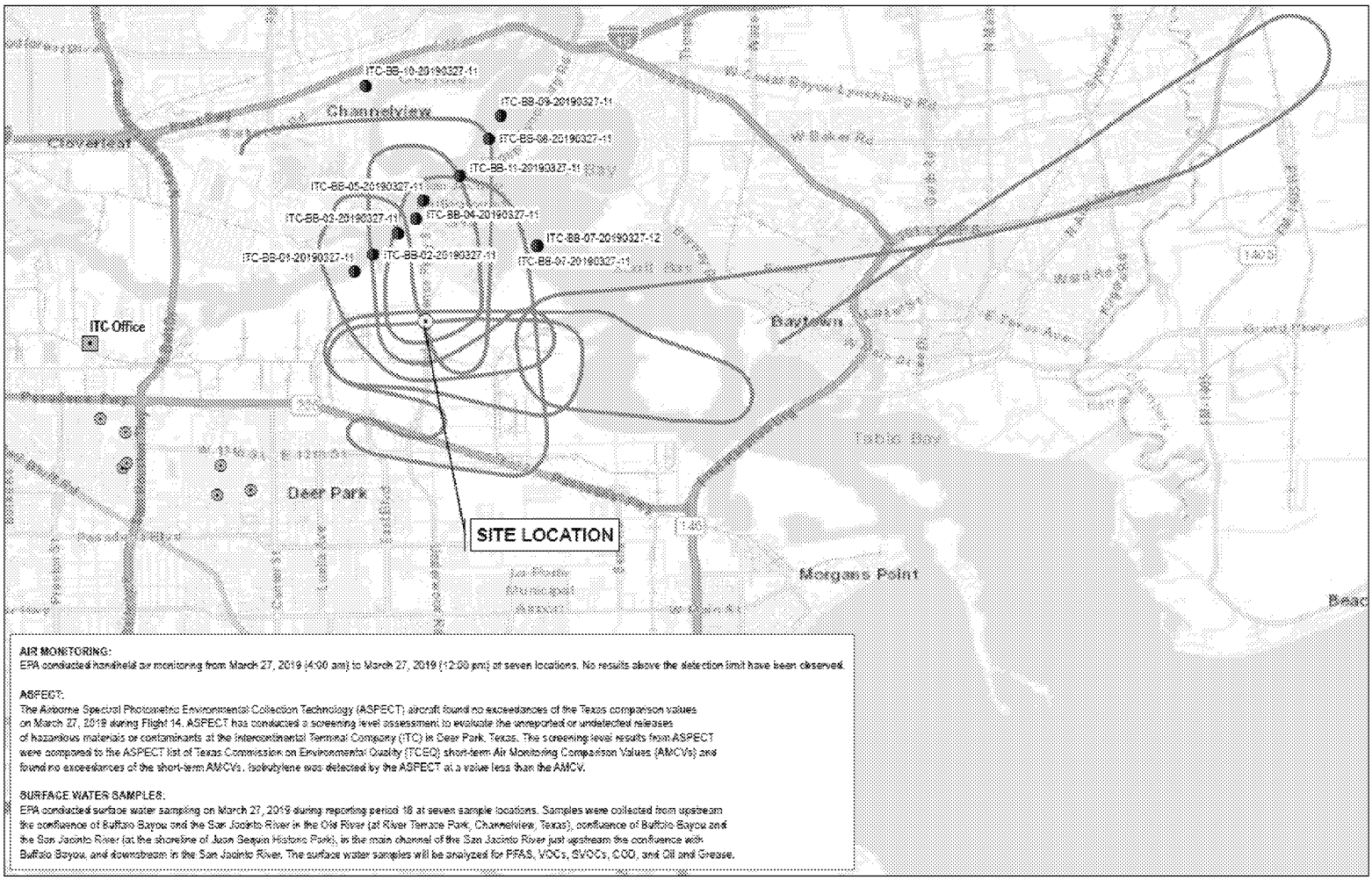
Coordination with State Agencies:

On March 17, 2019, in response to a tank fire at the ITC, federal, state and local agencies joined ITC in a Unified Command. Multiple agencies including the United States Coast Guard, the TCEQ, and Harris County Pollution Control Services supported the response effort.

EPA Resources:

Personnel	EPA R6 Dallas	ITC Deer Park	Total
EPA Region 6	7	7	**14**
EPA Non-Region 6	0	4	**4**
START	1	14	**15**
Other Contractors	0	8	**8**
Total	**8**	**33**	**41**

Additional Information: Air Monitoring and Water Sampling locations:



AIR MONITORING:
EPA conducted handheld air monitoring from March 27, 2019 (4:00 am) to March 27, 2019 (12:00 pm) at seven locations. No results above the detection limit have been observed.

ASPECT:
The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on March 27, 2019 during Flight 14. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC) in Deer Park, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs. Isobutylene was detected by the ASPECT at a value less than the AMCV.

SURFACE WATER SAMPLES:
EPA conducted surface water sampling on March 27, 2019 during reporting period 18 at seven sample locations. Samples were collected from upstream the confluence of Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River in the Old River (at River Terrace Park, Channelview, Texas), confluence of Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River (at the shoreline of Juan Sequin Historic Park), in the main channel of the San Jacinto River just upstream the confluence with Buffalo Bayou, and downstream in the San Jacinto River. The surface water samples will be analyzed for PFAS, VOCs, SVOCs, COD, and Oil and Grease.

Legend

- ITC OFFICE LOCATION
- SITE LOCATION
- WATER SAMPLE LOCATION
- ASPECT DATA (No Readings Above Benchmarks)

AIR MONITORING LOCATION
- NO DETECT

AIR MONITORING MAP
INTERCONTINENTAL TERMINALS COMPANY FIRE
1943 INDEPENDENCE PARKWAY
LA PORTE, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

REPORTING PERIOD #19
3/27/2019 04:00 - 3/27/2019 12:00

0 1 2
SCALE IN MILES

For Official Use Only

EPA GIS
Printed: 5:19:18 PM 3/27/2019