Message

From: Bokun, Lisa [Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/23/2019 12:30:19 AM
To: Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Draft Q&A for Response.Gov Website

To facilitate info sharing with the public, we wanted to suggest we could add these Q&A's to the response.gov website for ITC. These are actual inquiries we have rec'd and have provided approved responses to – Q&A list would be dynamic in that as additional responses to inquiries are approved for release, we would update the website. Good idea/comments/concerns?

From: Fanning, Cynthia
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:34 PM
To: Bokun, Lisa <Bokun.Lisa@epa.gov>
Cc: Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>; Acevedo, Janie <Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov>; Durant, Jennah <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Subject: Draft Q&A (also on SharePoint site)

ITC Q&A
Draft of 3/22

Desk Statement: [current as of 7:44 am, 3/22]
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) are working in Unified Command in response to a fire at the Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Deer Park facility near Houston, TX. The Unified Command consists of EPA, TCEQ, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Harris County Pollution Control Services (HCPCS) and ITC. Emergency responders have extinguished the fires. EPA has conducted, and continues to conduct, ground level air monitoring with hand held equipment and the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology aircraft (ASPECT). The EPA Trace Atmosphere Gas Analyzer (TAGA) has arrived in LaPorte and is operating in the Deer Park area. It is monitoring for organic compounds in the air. EPA began collecting water samples in Tucker Bayou on March 20, 2019, and in Buffalo Bayou on March 21, 2019.

Q: Does the EPA regulate onshore terminals such as ITC?
A: The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is responsible for onshore terminals. The state agency has a direct number that is manned 24/7. 512-239-5000. *[shared with Bloomberg, 3/19]*

Q: Are there any open investigations regarding Intercontinental Terminals Company?
A: No. *[shared with Houston Chronicle, 3/20]*

Q: Has the EPA begun an investigation of the Deer Park tank farm fires, the cause of it and whether any fines or other penalties will be assessed to Intercontinental Terminals Co.?
A: At present, this is still an active emergency response event, and EPA is focused on its role to provide assistance and coordinate with local governmental agencies, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Coast Guard, and Harris County HazMat for response actions needed to address any discharges from the site. *[shared with Reuters, 3/21]*

Q. Is there a recommended age/lifetime of an aboveground storage tank? Same question for underground storage tanks.

A. There is no age limit or lifespan defined in the regulations on either aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) or underground storage tanks (USTs), as long as they are maintained in accordance with tank specific Industry Standard (such as API or STI or UL). *[shared with KHOU, 3/20]*

Q. The National Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasure (SPCC) Inspector Guidances document refers to regional inspectors. Who inspects the tanks – trained personnel in the company, an outside company, EPA personnel or someone else?

A. The document you are referencing is the National Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasure (SPCC) Inspector Guidances document. This chapter discusses inspections that an SPCC subject facility must do, or have done, by a Tank Inspector knowledgeable in the applicable standards. These Inspectors can be company employees, or contractors. SPCC Regulations require subject facilities to follow industry accepted standards, mentioned above, to inspect & maintain their storage tanks. For USTs specifically, older tanks must have Corrosion Protection (CP) that is checked regularly and inspected by a certified corrosion expert. In Texas, regulated UST sites are inspected by the TCEQ and covered under 30 TAC Chapter 334. *[shared with KHOU, 3/20]*

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