Message

From: Schaefer, Joe [Schaefer.Joe@epa.gov]
Sent: 9/8/2017 11:23:01 PM
To: Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]; Delgado, Eric [Delgado.Eric@epa.gov]; Edlund, Carl [Edlund.Carl@epa.gov]; Carroll, Craig [Carroll.Craig@epa.gov]
CC: Smith, Monica [smith.monica@epa.gov]; Webster, Susan [webster.susan@epa.gov]; Foster, Althea [Foster.Althea@epa.gov]; Opalski, Dan [Opalski.Dan@epa.gov]; Mattas-Curry, Lahne [Mattas-Curry.Lahne@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Hurricane Harvey Draft Public Story Map

Are there specific narratives or visuals that need correction? We had received the narrative language from Terri White and Lahne Mattas-Curry. Also all of the site images were from the approved list Lahne provided us.

Valero Refinery

I did receive two updates from Lahne this evening on Arkema and Valero. If its acceptable I can update the story map with it. Text is below:

The EPA mobile laboratory, using the trace atmospheric gas analyzer and commonly called TAGA, is a triple quadrupole mass spectrometer system, extensively monitored the neighborhood adjacent to the Valero refinery in southeast Houston. To date, no levels of targeted toxic chemicals were detected above the Texas TCEQ Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCV) short-term screening levels. Copies of the TAGA results are attached. EPA continues to conduct ambient air monitoring in Houston, and is focusing on an area of potential concern associated with reported air emissions from a Valero facility in Houston to identify the possible source of emissions. EPA has been on-scene conducting real-time air monitoring near the facility and continues to investigate complaints in the area.

EPA conducted an inspection of the Valero facility on Monday, September 5, 2017, confirmed that a tank at the facility did have a leak which occurred on August 26, 2017 from the Hurricane Harvey storm and flooding. EPA also confirmed Valero had taken action to respond to and repair the leak. Based on current site conditions including weather, repair actions by Valero, and air monitoring results, EPA's inspection could not confirm the tank was the source of the air release that led to complaints in the area immediately after the storm. EPA's air monitoring performed onsite and around the facility on September 5 does not indicate levels of concern for the community. EPA will continue air monitoring for additional sources in the area.
The Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) is a self-contained mobile laboratory capable of real-time monitoring and sampling/analysis of outdoor air or emissions. The instrumentation refers both to the analytical instrument and the mobile laboratory built around it. The instrumentation aboard a TAGA mobile laboratory includes: A TAGA mass spectrometer/mass spectrometer (MS/MS), which provides real-time monitoring for many organic and inorganic compounds at the part-per-billion by volume (ppbv) levels or lower. An Agilent gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer (GC/MS), which analyzes volatile organic compounds at the ppbv level or lower in air samples collected in Tedlar® bags using a loop injection system. A global positioning system (GPS), which supplies accurate, real-time positional data during mobile monitoring or stationary events.

https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/TAGA_Results_analyzed20170905.pdf
https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/TAGA_Results_analyzed20170906.pdf

Arkema Facility, Crosby, TX

At the Arkema chemical plant in Crosby, emergency responders undertook a 24-hour operation to monitor the facility due to fires that erupted on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 2017. EPA and TCEQ provided direct support to the Crosby Volunteer Fire Department, Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the Harris County Fire Marshal as part of the Unified Command. EPA and partners monitored smoke and air quality, the potential for additional fires in the area, and had aerial assets deployed. EPA also collected downstream surface water samples at four locations outside the evacuation zone, near residential areas. Each samples was analyzed for volatile organic chemicals and semi-volatile organic chemicals likely to come from the Arkema plant – neither were detected in the surface water runoff samples. Non-quantifiable and compounds are not reported. It is important to note that chemical analysis alone cannot be used as an indication of water safety. In a flood situation, there are multiple risk factors that can cause harm, industrial chemicals are only one of those risk factors.
https://www.tceq.texas.gov/news/statement/statement-on-arkema-investigation
https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/Arkema_Surface_Water_VOCs_20170901.pdf

https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/Arkema_Surface_Water_SVOCs_20170901.pdf
EPA also sent its aerial surveillance aircraft to test resulting smoke from fires at Arkema. EPA's plane instrumentation is capable of measuring 78 different chemicals, including peroxides. The Airborne Spectral Photometric Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values. ASPECT conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Arkema plant in Crosby, Texas from August 30, 2017 through September 7, 2017. 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. In addition, the ASPECT was requested to monitor for peroxide which was the source material for the fire. A copy of the ASPECT report can be found here:
https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/Arkema_ASPECT_Detections_20170907.pdf

Let me know what additional updates I can make.

Joe Schaefer
Environmental Response Team
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(c)609-865-8111

From: Gray, David
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 7:10 PM
To: Schaefer, Joe <Schaefer.Joe@epa.gov>; Delgado, Eric <Delgado.Eric@epa.gov>; Edlund, Carl <Edlund.Carl@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>
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This information is not correct.

From: Schaefer, Joe
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 4:28 PM
To: Delgado, Eric <Delgado.Eric@epa.gov>; Edlund, Carl <Edlund.Carl@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Cc: Smith, Monica <smith.monica@epa.gov>; Webster, Susan <webster.susan@epa.gov>; Foster, Althea <Foster.Althea@epa.gov>; Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>; Mattas-Curry, Lahne <Mattas-Curry.Lahne@epa.gov>
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We will also be adding everyone to the secure group that has access to the storymap so the link might not work immediately as we give everyone access.

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(c)609-865-8111

From: Delgado, Eric
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 5:07 PM
To: Edlund, Carl <Edlund.Carl@epa.gov>; Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
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Subject: Hurricane Harvey Draft Public Story Map
Importance: High

Please find the draft to the Hurricane Harvey Draft story map.
Please take a look and provide feedback for public dissemination.

https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=fadbae6b2832436fb65ca497bd75b9a6
<< File: EOC Harvey R6 Draft Story Map Content 9-7 -17 (003).docx >>

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