Message

From: Adams, Adam [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=8ED5877842964D6794FAB4410F65DB46-ADAMS, ADAM]
Sent: 11/29/2019 10:30:56 PM
To: Tighe, Daniel [Daniel.Tighe@WestonSolutions.com]; james.collins@westonsolutions.com
CC: Loesel, Matthew [loesel.matthew@epa.gov]; Rouse, Philip [rouse.philip@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Update 1: Fire / R10 / TPC Port Neches Operations / Port Neches, Jefferson County - Notification of Significant Incident/Notification Report to State Legislators

FYI

From: Kelly Cook <kelly.cook@tceq.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 4:16 PM
To: Carroll, Craig <Carroll.Craig@epa.gov>; Adams, Adam <Adams.Adam@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Update 1: Fire / R10 / TPC Port Neches Operations / Port Neches, Jefferson County - Notification of Significant Incident/Notification Report to State Legislators

TCEQ Update.

From: Jonathan Walling <jonathan.walling@tceq.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 3:38 PM
To: HSNotify <HSNotify@tceq.texas.gov>; IGR <IGR@tceq.texas.gov>
Subject: Update 1: Fire / R10 / TPC Port Neches Operations / Port Neches, Jefferson County - Notification of Significant Incident/Notification Report to State Legislators

Update 1:

The 4-mile radius evacuation around TPC has been lifted, as of 10:00 a.m. Friday, which affected approximately 45,000 people.

On Wednesday, November 27, 2019, several issues made containing and managing firefighting water problematic. Power was lost during one of the explosions, which meant that the Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant (Joint WWTP) shared between TPC and Huntsman, was offline and could not accept firefighting water. The water was being held onsite by earthen dams around the facility. Because the area was highly explosive, it was unsafe to bring in frac tanks to collect the water. Eventually, Outfall 201 was breached at 6:23 p.m. on November 27, 2019. Outfall 201 leads through several drainage ditches and eventually reaches the Neches River. Sheening and product has been documented in various ditches; however, it has not reached the Neches River. Booms and skimmers have been deployed, as well as extra manpower to remove sheening and product.

Currently, the fire is contained to eight spot fires in different units inside TPC. This reduction in fire has meant a reduction in firefighting water. The Joint WWTP power was restored late on November 28, 2019, and is pumping firefighting water from the site at a reduced rate of 5000 gallons per minute; the firefighting efforts are producing approximately 20,000 gpm, so containing and managing firefighting water is still an issue, and water continues to escape through Outfall 201.

TCEQ teams, contractors, and the Civil Support Team continue to conduct air monitoring 24 hours a day throughout the area. No action levels have been exceeded.

The Site Safety Plan was approved November 28, 2019. The Air Monitoring Plan and Water Sampling Plan should be approved today, November 29, 2019. The Waste Management Plan is being drafted.

The region continues to staff the Incident Command/Emergency Operation Center, the Disaster District (DDC), and provide monitoring teams. Houston Disaster Response Strike Team members have been deployed to assist with air monitoring and Incident Command staffing.

From: Kathy Sauceda <Kathy.Sauceda@tceq.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 4:30 AM
To: HSNotify <HSNotify@tceq.texas.gov>; IGR <IGR@tceq.texas.gov>
Subject: Initial:: Fire / R10 / TPC Port Neches Operations / Port Neches, Jefferson County - Notification of Significant Incident

Notification Status: Initial

General Incident Information
Type of Incident: Fire / Explosion
Date: November 27, 2019
Time Incident Started: 1:00 a.m.
Time TCEQ Notified: The Beaumont Region was made aware (staff woke up from explosion) of an explosion and subsequent fire located in the Port Neches area (Jefferson County) at the TPC Port Neches Operations.

TCEQ Region: Region 10 – Beaumont

Responsible Party (RP)/Regulated Entity Information/Incident Location
RP/Regulated Entity Name: TPC Port Neches Operations
RN Number (if available): RN104964267
Street Address: Located at the NW Corner of the Intersection of FM366 and Spur 136
City: Port Neches
County: Jefferson County
RP Contact Name and Information: Mr. Mike Miller, PNO Production Manager, (409) 724-4917

Specific Incident Information
Description of Event/Cause: There was an explosion / fire at TPC Port Neches Operations located in Port Neches, Jefferson County. The cause is unknown. This facility manufactures 1-3 Butadiene and Raffinate. Multiple fire departments are responding to the active fire. Mr. Mike White, Jefferson County EMC, stated that they are in the process of calling for a ½ mile radius evacuation from the facility. In addition, a shelter-in-place has been issued by the Orange County Judge for citizens south of I-10 in Orange County. No additional information is known at this time.

Material Released: 1-3 Butadiene and other unknowns
Amount Released (estimated): Unknown
Affected Media: Air/Land/Stormwater
Injuries or Fatalities: Mr. White, Jefferson County EMC, stated that there were injuries; however, he did not know how many or the extent of the injuries at this time.
Other Risks: There have been reports that the fire is very close to the pressurized tanks that are located at the site.

Current Response
TCEQ Response: The Beaumont office is calling staff to the office to calibrate air monitoring equipment and prepare to go into the neighborhoods to conduct air monitoring once a safe perimeter is established. Hope Davila, Beaumont Emergency Response Coordinator, is at the incident command.
TCEQ Responder Name and Contact Information: Hope Davila, 409-791-7296
Incident Commander Name and Contact Information: Unknown
Emergency Response Contractor Information: Williams Fire has been contracted by the RE
Other Federal, State, or Local Authorities on Site: EPA Contractor is enroute, The National Weather Service in Lake Charles, Louisiana is assisting with plume modeling, and Texas Department of Public Safety

Other Pertinent Information, If Available
Weather: Fair 76 degrees Fahrenheit
Wind Direction: Calm
Potentially Impacted Receptors: Downwind neighborhoods and other Petrochemical Facilities
Local News Media: Local news stories can be found at the following links:

https://www.12newsnow.com/article/news/local/explosion-fire-burning-at-port-neches-plant-early-monday/502-de236827-a796-48f7-ac55-fad5064c3c8b

https://www.facebook.com/KFDMNews/videos/breaking-tpc-plant-explosion-in-port-neches/1813119148831422/?__so__=discover&__rv__=top_live

https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/27/us/port-neches-plant-explosion/index.html

https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/27/us/texas-explosion-port-neches-tpc.html