

Ethylene Oxide: Technical Reviews and Outreach to Potentially Affected Communities

Status Report: Taminco US (Eastman Corp.) - St. Gabriel, LA

First Quarter 2021 Update

As EPA pursues its mission to protect public health and the environment, addressing ethylene oxide remains a major priority for the Agency. EPA's National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA), released in August 2018, identified a number of areas of the country where risks of cancer were potentially elevated because of ethylene oxide emissions. NATA estimated risk based on emissions from 2014, which were the most recently available at the time.

Because NATA is a screening-level analysis, additional work is needed to better understand emissions in areas NATA identifies as potentially having elevated risk, and to identify opportunities for early reductions at individual facilities, while EPA reviews its regulations for industries. EPA supports its state air agency partners in that work.

The information below describes the technical analyses conducted for Taminco US in St. Gabriel, LA, since NATA was issued in August 2018. It also summarizes outreach to nearby communities.

Technical reviews conducted:

In October 2020, EPA Region 6 requested assistance from the State of Louisiana in gathering the most current information on the specific ethylene oxide emitting facilities, including Taminco US, and to assist with the development of technical assessments. Our request outlines our proposed technical approach/steps to complete these assessments, including the information needed from our state regulatory partners.

- EPA is in communication with the State of Louisiana, and we are coordinating on activities involving EtO.
- The EPA NATA estimate was based on annual emissions data from 2014. From 2014-2019, through emission reductions and/or re-evaluation of actual emission levels, reported EtO emissions at Taminco US facility reduced by 92 percent.
- EPA and LDEQ held a conference call with Taminco US on March 22, 2021, to discuss facility efforts to reduce reported ethylene oxide emissions and obtain additional technical information.

Additional information on Taminco US will be provided on this website in future updates.

Outreach conducted:

EPA Region 6 is currently focused on developing additional, more refined assessments. EPA Region 6 will then discuss with the state of Louisiana how to share information with nearby communities. Additional information on Taminco US will be provided on this website in future updates.