

Ethylene Oxide: Technical Reviews and Outreach to Potentially Affected Communities

Status Report - Second Quarter 2021 Update

April – June 2021

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 (EtO) 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 is supporting its state air agency partners in that work.

In January 2021, EPA posted a status report describing the technical analysis and outreach work conducted for Union Carbide, located in South Charleston, West Virginia. This document summarizes additional work conducted in the second quarter of 2021.

Technical review updates:

- EPA completed air modeling and risk modeling review at the S. Charleston plant.
- West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) and EPA have held several discussions on next steps.
 - WVDEP plans to conduct grab sample analysis at and nearby the facility. WVDEP held a meeting with the facility on July 14, 2021, and hopes to finalize the sampling locations.

Outreach updates:

- WVDEP has begun reaching out to community advocates to identify additional stakeholders to plan for public meetings.
- Also, WVDEP will be inviting local elected officials to attend public meetings.
- EPA will be participating in the public meetings with WVDEP.