

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 (EtO) remains a major priority for the Agency. EPA's National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA), released in August 2018, identified a number of areas (census tracts) with potentially elevated risk from continuous exposure, over 70 years, to EtO in the outdoor air. NATA estimated these risks based on EtO 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 Sasol Chemicals (USA), Lake Charles Chemical Complex (Sasol Chemicals) in Westlake, LA. This document summarizes additional work conducted in the second quarter of 2021.

Technical updates:

- EPA is in communication with the State of Louisiana and we are coordinating on activities involving EtO.
- EPA and LDEQ held a conference call with Sasol Chemicals on April 8, 2021, to discuss facility efforts to reduce reported ethylene oxide emissions and obtain additional technical information.
- EPA is currently focused on developing additional, more refined assessments.

Outreach updates:

- EPA held a webinar on May 20, 2021, to provide community leaders, public officials, and leaders of community organizations in Texas and Louisiana with information about EtO and its health effects. The webinar focused on EtO uses, why EPA is involved, how EtO is managed, and general information on the potential public health risks associated with EtO. A video recording of the webinar and related information can be found at the following website: <https://www.epa.gov/la/air-issues-louisiana>. Additional information on Sasol Chemicals will be provided on this website in future updates.

EPA is also working with LDEQ on developing plans for EtO community outreach events to be conducted this summer. A separate outreach event will be scheduled for August or early September 2021 for interested community members who live near Sasol. Additional information on the outreach event will be shared as the specific plan for the event is developed.