

**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 Shell Technology Center in Houston, TX. This document summarizes any additional work conducted in the second quarter of 2021.

Technical updates:

- EPA is communicating with the State of Texas to obtain updated and accurate facility emissions and control data on EtO.
- EPA is currently focused on developing additional, more refined technical 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 ethylene oxide and its health effects. The webinar focused on ethylene oxide uses, why EPA is involved, how ethylene oxide is managed, and general information on the potential public health risks associated with ethylene oxide. A video recording of the webinar and related information can be found at the following website: <https://www.epa.gov/tx/air-issues-texas#4>. Additional information on Shell Technology Center will be provided on this website in future updates.
- EPA is also talking with TCEQ as EPA develops plans for EtO community outreach events to be conducted this summer. An EtO outreach event will be scheduled for August or early September 2021 for interested community members who live near Shell Technology Center. Additional information on the outreach event will be shared as the specific plan for the event is developed.