Ethylene Oxide: Technical Reviews and Outreach to Potentially Affected Communities

Status Report – Third Quarter 2021 Update

July – September 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 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 the first status report describing the technical analysis and outreach work conducted for Union Carbide, located in South Charleston, West Virginia. Since then, updates have been posted for the first and second quarters of 2021. This document summarizes additional work conducted in the third quarter of 2021.

Technical review updates:

- West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has drafted the Quality Assurance Project Plan, Sampling Plan and Standard Operating Procedures for short-term air monitoring of ethylene oxide at Union Carbide. EPA reviewed and commented on the drafts; as the next step, West Virginia will revise and finalize the documents.

Outreach updates:

- EPA and West Virginia DEP conducted a joint virtual public meeting for the South Charleston and Institute communities on September 23, 2021.
    - The audience consisted of residents, community activists, local and state officials, and environmental groups.
    - The public meeting and all Q & As are posted on: https://www.epa.gov/wv/virtual-community-meeting-about-ethylene-oxide.