

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Saturday, July 28, 2007

From: Eric Delgado

To: R6 PolRep TX, Response and Prevention Branch
Debbie Dietrich, Office of Emergency Management
Sam Coleman, Superfund Division
Ragan Broyles, Response and Prevention Branch

Subject: First and Final POLREP
Valero Refinery Hydrogen Sulfide
1801 South Gulfway Drive, Port Arthur, TX
Latitude: 29.8576190
Longitude: -93.9591540

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	
Reporting Period:	7/28/2007	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	7/28/2007	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	7/28/2007	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:	7/28/2007	NPL Status:	
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:			

Site Description

On July 28, 2007, residents downwind of the Valero Refining, Port Arthur, Texas were reporting odors and illness. The Valero Refinery reported to the NRC (Report 843674) that there had been a release of an estimated 100 pounds of hydrogen sulfide; from a leaking seal on a tank at the facility. Valero reported that an unknown number of people had gone to area hospitals due to exposure to the released material. The local fire department, EPA, and the Texas Committee on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Strike Team responded.

Current Activities

On July 28, 2007, the EPA tasked the EPA Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) to meet with the TCEQ and perform area monitoring in the neighborhoods downwind of the refinery. The START met a Valero representative and determined the release appeared to have originated from Tank 151, a slop oil tank. As they received complaints around 1300 on July 28, 2007, they investigated and noticed stains on the outside of the tanks and got some low level readings. Valero determined that there was a gap in the secondary seal in the floating roof of Tank 151, a slop oil tank. Valero did air monitoring on Tank 151's perimeter cat walk, but did not identify any readings above background; this determined the release had stopped. Valero also did air monitoring at the facility's perimeter and in the neighborhoods, not detect anything. Valero planned to make the repairs on the seal for the tank on 29 July 2007 as the release appeared to have stopped. The TCEQ reported that the fire department had transported 38 people to the hospital, but there may have been some who transported themselves to the hospital. The results of the air monitoring conducted by TCEQ and START in the neighborhood did not detect hydrogen sulfide. The TCEQ concluded the material between the once the material between the secondary and primary seals had been released and the release stopped. The TCEQ departed the site at 1815 hours. The START-3 monitored downwind of Tank 151 and did not detect hydrogen sulfide at several locations downwind. OSC Eric Delgado released the START-3 at 1845 hours.

Planned Removal Actions

None.

Next Steps

START will monitor the situation through the TCEQ.

Key Issues

The key issue was to determine the release had stopped and the neighborhood down wind was protected.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

response.epa.gov/ValeroRefineryH2S

POLREP #1 Last Updated 7/29/2007