

U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigations Board

Business Meeting

April 29, 2020

CSB Headquarters Office - Washington, DC

U.S. CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

KATHERINE LEMOS, CHAIRMAN & CEO

KRISTEN KULINOWSKI, MEMBER

TOM GOONAN, GENERAL COUNSEL

STAFF PRESENT:

Tom Goonan, General Counsel

1 OPERATOR: Good morning and welcome to the Chemical Safety  
2 Board public business meeting conference call. My name is  
3 Zinara[?] and I'll be the operator for today's call. At this  
4 time, all participants are in a listen-only mode. Now I'll turn  
5 the call over to Ms. Katherine Lemos. Katherine, you may begin.

6 CHAIR LEMOS: Thank you, Zinara. Good morning. We will now  
7 call to order this business meeting of the U.S. Chemical Safety  
8 and Hazard Investigation Board, referred to as the CSB.

9 Before we begin, I'd like to introduce myself, Dr. Katherine  
10 Lemos, as the new Chairman and CEO for the agency. I am thrilled  
11 to serve both the agency and the American public in this  
12 capacity. Joining me today is Board Member Kristen Kulinowski and  
13 our General Counsel, Tom Goonan.

14 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this is an audio-only business  
15 meeting. Although all interested participants are able to join  
16 via the call-in line, you should know that there are only three  
17 of us here in the CSB's headquarter offices in Washington, D.C.  
18 We are maintaining social distancing per CDC guidelines.

19 Today we meet in open session, as required by the Government  
20 in the Sunshine Act, to discuss operations and agency activities.  
21 The CSB is an independent, non-regulatory federal agency that  
22 investigates major chemical incidents at fixed facilities.

23           The investigations examine all aspects of chemical  
24 incidents, including physical causes related to equipment design,  
25 inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety  
26 management systems. Ultimately, we issue safety recommendations  
27 for the purpose of preventing similar incidents or accidents in  
28 the future.

29           If you are on the phone and wish to make a public comment at  
30 the end of the meeting, please follow the operator's cues and she  
31 will unmute your line. You may also submit public comments during  
32 the meeting or after, by email to [meeting@csb.gov](mailto:meeting@csb.gov). Again, that's  
33 [meeting@csb.gov](mailto:meeting@csb.gov) and those comments will be included in the  
34 official record.

35           I would now like to turn the first part of today's meeting  
36 over to Dr. Kulinowski. I sincerely appreciate and thank her for  
37 her leadership as Interim Executive and wish her all the best as  
38 she transitions from the Board into a new position outside of  
39 government. I have truly appreciated her insight and candor over  
40 the last few days. And so, please, Dr. Kulinowski, continue.

41           MEMBER KULINOWSKI: Thank you Chair Lemos. I am delighted to  
42 be here and pleased to participate in my last public business  
43 meeting, with, of course, some regret. I'll have more to say on

44 that at the end of the meeting. For now, I will provide an  
45 update on the current investigations.

46 The CSB is currently operating with seven incident  
47 investigators and two supervisory investigators. And we have 13  
48 open investigations. I will provide a brief description of the  
49 status of each.

50 There was one new deployment since the last business meeting  
51 on January 29, 2020. The CSB has 13 open investigations and the  
52 new one is the Wendland 1H well.

53 On January 29<sup>th</sup>, a blowout and fire occurred at the Daniel H.  
54 Wendland 1H natural gas well in Burleson County, Texas. Three  
55 workers were fatally injured, and one worker was seriously  
56 injured. The investigation team is performing on-scene  
57 activities, interviewing personnel, and reviewing relevant  
58 documents.

59 As for our open investigations, I'll begin with the Watson  
60 Manufacturing and Grinding. On January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, an explosion  
61 and fire event occurred at the Watson Manufacturing and Grinding  
62 Company in Houston, Texas. The incident resulted in the fatal  
63 injury of two employees, one employee was seriously injured, and  
64 there was significant commercial and residential property damage  
65 in the surrounding area. The Watson Company's operation included

66 the powder coating of metal equipment primarily for the oil and  
67 mining industries. The powder coating process utilized  
68 poly...utilized propylene that was stored on-site in a bulk storage  
69 tank.

70 The investigation team is performing investigative  
71 activities, interviewing personnel, and continuing to review  
72 relevant documents.

73 The TPC Group facility in Port Neches, Texas, experienced a  
74 release of hydrocarbons on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019, that resulted in  
75 a fire event and multiple explosions. The release occurred in  
76 the South Unit of the facility, used in the production of 1,3-  
77 butadiene which is primarily used as a monomer in the production  
78 of a wide range of polymers and copolymers. The incident  
79 resulted in multiple injuries and property damage to both the  
80 facility and the surrounding area.

81 And the investigation team is continuing to perform  
82 investigative activities, interview personnel, and review  
83 relevant documents.

84 On October 26, 2019, Aghorn Operating Incorporated in  
85 Odessa, Texas, experienced a loss of containment at a pump  
86 station that resulted in the release of hydrogen sulfide. One  
worker and

87 one member of the public were fatally injured as a result of the  
88 release.

89 This investigation is also ongoing.

90 On June 21, 2019, a major process loss of containment  
91 resulted in a fire and several explosions at the Philadelphia  
92 Energy Solutions, or PES, refining complex in Philadelphia,  
93 Pennsylvania. The incident occurred in the PES hydrofluoric acid  
94 alkylation unit. The unit was significantly damaged from the  
95 fire and multiple explosions.

96 This draft investigation report is in the final stage of  
97 review.

98 On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, an explosion and fire that occurred during  
99 production of a silicon hydride emulsion at the AB Specialty  
100 Silicones facility in Waukegan, Illinois. The incident resulted  
101 in fatal injuries to four employees and the injury of at least  
102 one other employee. The explosion severely damaged the  
103 production facility and impacted neighboring facilities.

104 The...the CSB's investigation team is analyzing the factual  
105 information collected during the initial phase of the  
106 investigation.

107 On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019, an explosion and fire occurred at the  
108 KMCO facility in Crosby, Texas. KMCO is a producer of specialty

109 chemical products. The company reported the release of  
110 isobutylene prior to the incident. The incident resulted in the  
111 fatal injury of one employee. Two employees were seriously  
112 injured and over 25 workers, both employees and contractors, were  
113 injured.

114 The investigation team is developing the draft final  
115 investigation report.

116 On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, a large fire erupted at the  
117 Intercontinental Terminals Company, LLC, or ITC, bulk liquid  
118 storage terminal located in Deer Park, Texas. The fire  
119 originated in the vicinity of Tank 80-8, an 80,000-barrel  
120 aboveground atmospheric storage tank. The tank contained  
121 naphtha, a flammable liquid typically used as a feedstock or  
122 blend stock for production of gasoline. ITC was unable to  
123 isolate or stop the release of naphtha from the tank and the fire  
124 continued to burn, intensify, and progressively involve  
125 additional storage tanks at the facility.

126 High levels of volatile organic compounds were present for  
127 approximately 13 weeks after the incident, which delayed access  
128 to the incident location by our investigators. The incident did  
129 not result in any injuries to either ITC personnel or emergency  
130 responders. But the local community was affected by the

131 incident, resulting in a shelter-in-place order and the closure  
132 of schools and businesses.

133 The investigation team is performing on-scene investigative  
134 activities, interviewing personnel, and reviewing relevant  
135 documents.

136 On Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, an ethylene release and fire  
137 injured 23 workers at the Kuraray America Inc., or Kuraray,  
138 ethylene and vinyl alcohol copolymer plant, or EVAL Plant, in  
139 Pasadena, Texas. At the time of the incident, 266 employees and  
140 contract workers were on site. During the incident, 2,347 pounds  
141 of ethylene were released in less than three minutes.

142 The incident occurred during the startup of a chemical  
143 reactor system following a turnaround. High-pressure conditions  
144 developed inside the reactor, activating the reactor's emergency  
145 pressure-relief system and discharging ethylene vapor into the  
146 atmosphere toward an area where many contractors were working.  
147 These workers were performing a variety of tasks that were not  
148 essential to the startup of the reactor, including hot work,  
149 which likely ignited the ethylene vapor, creating the fire.

150 The draft investigation report is in the final stage of  
151 review.



152 On April 26, 2018, an explosion and subsequent fire occurred  
153 at the Husky Superior Refinery in Superior, Wisconsin. The  
154 explosion occurred while workers were shutting down the Fluid  
155 Catalytic Cracking Unit for periodic maintenance and inspection.  
156 20 Husky employees and contract workers were injured, and a  
157 large portion of the town of Superior, Wisconsin, was evacuated.

158 The investigation team is reviewing documents and data  
159 collected during the initial phase of the investigation.

160 On May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, several explosions occurred at the Didion  
161 Milling facility in Cambria, Wisconsin. Didion performs corn  
162 milling at the Cambria facility. The dry corn milling process is  
163 a dust-producing operation and corn dust is known to be explosive  
164 under the right circumstances. Five employees were fatally  
165 injured, 14 workers injured, and there was significant damage to  
166 the facility as a result of this incident.

167 This investigation is currently on hold due to the lack of  
168 available investigative staff.

169 On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, a steam condensate, hot water, storage  
170 tank catastrophically failed at the Loy-Lange Box Company in St.  
171 Louis, Missouri. The force of the steam explosion ejected the  
172 storage tank from the facility, where it travelled approximately  
173 500 feet and went through the roof of the Faultless Healthcare

174 Linen facility. One Loy-Lange employee and two Faultless  
175 Healthcare Linen employees were fatally injured. One Loy-Lange  
176 employee was seriously injured and there was significant damage  
177 to both facilities.

178 The investigation team is reviewing documents and data, in  
179 addition to testing a component involved in the incident.

180 On August 12, 2016, a flash fire occurred during a welding  
181 operation or hot work on a pipe manifold at Sunoco Logistics  
182 Partners terminal facility in Nederland, Texas. Seven  
183 contractors were injured as a result of this event.

184 This investigation is on hold due to the lack of available  
185 investigative staff.

186 Chair Lemos.

187 CHAIR LEMOS: Thank you, Dr. Kulinowski. What I'll now turn  
188 to is an update of the status of the CSB Recommendations,  
189 followed by ongoing audits by the EPA Office of Inspector  
190 General, as well as a financial update.

191 In terms of recommendations, I'll provide a summary first of  
192 our current open and closed and will follow by highlighting a  
193 recently released advocacy document.

194           The CSB currently has a ratio of 83% recommendations closed  
195 and 17% in open status. That equates to 697 closed  
196 recommendations and 144 open, for a total of 841.

197           A specific breakdown according to investigation can be found  
198 in the events portion of the CSB's website, including the status  
199 of all recommendations.

200           Now let's go back in time to April 20, 2010, the blowout and  
201 explosion from Macondo oil well. Many of you will recall this as  
202 if it were yesterday, and just last week, April 20<sup>th</sup>, was the ten-  
203 year anniversary.

204           This was a multiple-fatality incident that occurred  
205 approximately 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana, in the Gulf of  
206 Mexico, during temporary well-abandonment activities on the  
207 Deepwater Horizon drilling rig. Control of the well was lost,  
208 resulting in a blowout, the uncontrolled release of oil and gas,  
209 in specific, hydrocarbons from the well. On the rig, the  
210 hydrocarbons found an ignition source.

211           The resulting explosions and fire led to the deaths of 11  
212 individuals, serious physical injuries to 17 others, the  
213 evacuation of 115 individuals from the rig, the sinking of the  
214 Deepwater Horizon, and massive marine and coastal damage from  
215 approximately four million barrels of released hydrocarbons.

216 From the four-volume investigation report, the CSB issued 16  
217 recommendations, nine of which were to the Department of  
218 Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. I'd  
219 like to highlight one of these recommendations in It  
220 particular.  
221 states, "Drawing upon best available global standards and  
222 practices, develop guidance addressing the roles and  
223 responsibilities of corporate Boards of Directors and Executives  
224 for effective major accident prevention. Among other topics, this  
225 standard shall provide specific guidance on how Boards and  
226 Executives could best communicate major accident safety risks to  
227 their stakeholders, as well as corporate legal strategies to  
228 effectively manage those risks." That recommendation number, for  
the record, is 2010-10-I-OF-R7.

229 As a result, we released the CSB product entitled, "CSB Best  
230 Practice Guidance for Corporate Boards of Directors and  
231 Executives in the Offshore Oil and Industry...and Gas Industry for  
232 Major Accident Prevention". We released this on the ten-year  
233 anniversary date.

234 For a company to avoid major accidents, Boards of Directors  
235 and Executives must be equipped with adequate and timely process  
236 safety-related information, and at least some members must have  
237 adequate levels of relevant education, training, and professional

238 experience to allow them to assess the information they receive  
239 to evaluate the actions, decisions, and strategies of executive  
240 management.

241 Boards influence corporate activity at the highest levels,  
242 including policies, communications, strategic goals, objectives,  
243 mergers and acquisitions, indicators, compensation, and incentive  
244 pay programs.

245 These decisions help to shape the corporation's overall  
246 culture and the degree to which that culture is focused on safety  
247 and major accident prevention. This new guidance document is  
248 designed to help inform and guide decision making when it comes  
249 to safety and major accident prevention.

250 Moving on to The Office of Inspector General Audits. As of  
251 April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the CSB is currently working with the Office of  
252 Inspector General on the Federal Information Security Management  
253 Act recommendation, and this will be completed by the deadline  
254 on April 30<sup>th</sup>, which is tomorrow.

255 Next, we have our Financial Update. Currently, the CSB is  
256 operating under appropriated funding totaling \$12 million to  
257 support the agency's mission. In February of this year, the  
258 agency submitted their budget request to Congress for Fiscal Year  
259 2021 in the amount of \$13.5 million. That represents a \$1.5

260 million increase from FY2020. The CSB has requested these  
261 additional funds to satisfy increases in employment, as well as  
262 investigative costs.

263 The CSB would like to express its sincere gratitude towards  
264 Congress for continuously funding the agency so we can continue  
265 to keep our nation safe from chemical disasters.

266 At this time, I would like to open the floor for public  
267 comments related to the CSB's activities. Please present your  
268 comments within a three-minute time period. And we'll go now to  
269 the phone to see if we have any public comments.

270 OPERATOR: Thank you. We will now be in a public comments  
271 session. At this time, if you have a public comment, please  
272 press \* then 1 on your touchtone phone. Please limit your  
273 comments to three minutes or less. There will be a slight delay  
274 before the first comment is announced.

275 Once again, if you have a public comment, please press \*  
276 then 1 on your touchtone phone. And our first comment is from  
277 Steve Solomon. Please go ahead. Your line is open.

278 STEVE SOLOMON: Good morning and thank you for the  
279 opportunity to make a comment and ask a question. First of all,  
280 congratulations to Dr. Lemos on your new position. We look  
281 forward to working with you. And I also want to take a moment to

282 personally thank Dr. Kulinowski for your service to workers and  
283 especially those who have been lost due to tragic events. So  
284 thank you for all you've done.

285 My question is, on April 15<sup>th</sup>, there was a paper mill  
286 explosion in Jay, Maine. And I was wanting to know, is the CSB  
287 looking into this and, if you are looking into this, what are  
288 your plans going forward? Thank you.

289 CHAIR LEMOS: Thank you, Steve. This is Katherine. First  
290 of all, thank you so much for your congratulations and, again, I  
291 will also miss working with Dr. Kulinowski. I think she's done a  
292 fantastic job. And we looking forward to working together.

293 In terms of your...your question regarding the 15<sup>th</sup> April  
294 event, I'll put that.. We'll note that for the public comments.  
295 That is a question, a fair question. And we will address that  
296 through the public comment process.

297 OPERATOR: Thank you. Our next question comes from John  
298 Bresland. Please go ahead. Your line is open.

299 JOHN BRESLAND: Good morning. This is John Bresland, a  
300 former Board Member and Chair of the Chemical Safety Board. I  
301 left the Chemical Safety Board in 2012. It just doesn't seem...my  
302 life has passed so quickly since then. But I did want to call in  
303 and congratulate Dr. Lemos...congratulate Katherine on her

304 appointment as the Chair and Board Member of the Chemical Safety  
305 Board and...and certainly wish her all the best. And also thank  
306 Dr. Kulinowski for her service over the years as well.

307 It's...it...it's interesting to listen to the...the list of  
308 incidents that you're currently investigating or hoping to  
309 investigate with more staff. It doesn't seem like the types of  
310 incidents are changing all that much and that's a little  
311 disheartening. It's not a...it's not a criticism of the Chemical  
312 Safety Board. It's just...it's...it's unfortunate that the incidents  
313 that we were investigating ten years ago are still happening  
314 today.

315 But I certainly enjoyed my time at the Chemical Safety  
316 Board. I was there for almost ten years. It was probably the  
317 most interesting job I had the whole time...in my working career.

318 So I just encourage you to keep on doing your  
319 investigations, doing them quickly, doing accurately and  
320 comprehensively, and getting the information out to the industry  
321 so that we can have a...an ongoing reduction in the number of  
322 incidents and the number of fatalities.

323 But again, congratulations and welcome aboard to Dr. Lemos.  
324 I know you're really going to have a...a very interesting time over  
325 the...the next five years. Thank you.



326 CHAIR LEMOS: Thank you, Mr. Bresland. What an honor to  
327 have you call in and...and provide such encouraging comments and  
328 congratulations. I am certainly looking forward to an  
329 interesting time.

330 Your observation regarding the fact that the similar events  
331 are occurring is...is noteworthy and something, of course, that we  
332 hope to impact...you know, moving forward. So thank you so much  
333 for...for calling in and...and your comments of encouragement.

334 MEMBER KULINOWSKI: And I wanted to add my...my thanks also  
335 to...to you, John, for your...for your comments directed to me, Dr.  
336 Kulinowski.

337 OPERATOR: Thank you. Our next comment comes from Richard  
338 Rosera. Please go ahead. You line is open.

339 RICHARD ROSERA: I just wanted to congratulate Dr. Lemos and  
340 also thank Dr. Kulinowski for her service over...well, almost five  
341 years to the...to the Board and to the CSB.

342 And also wanted to check. I noted that some of the  
343 investigations are on hold because of lack of staff. How many  
344 investigators do you currently have? And what's the status of...of  
345 hiring any additional staff as investigators?

346 CHAIR LEMOS: So I know that earlier in the... First of all,  
347 thank you, Richard. And your last name is Rosera?

348 RICHARD ROSERA: Correct.

349 CHAIR LEMOS: Correct. And are you with any particular  
350 agency or association?

351 RICHARD ROSERA: I'm with a company called EHS Grades, which  
352 includes two former investigators, Johnnie Banks and Samuel  
353 Oyewole and, you know, I have a continuing interest in the  
354 activities of the CSB. So that's...that's my background.

355 CHAIR LEMOS: Excellent. Thank you, Richard. So I'm just  
356 referring back to Dr. Kulinowski's comments from earlier in this  
357 hour. The CSB is currently operating with seven incident  
358 investigators and two supervisory investigators. And there are  
359 13 open investigations. I do know that there are a number of  
360 open requisitions for investigators. And I also know that we're  
361 in the process of...of bringing on several others currently.

362 So I can't...I can't provide any details but we will note in  
363 the public record, you know, that...that question and potential  
364 concern, because I share that as well, in terms of our ability to  
365 close out on these...these issues...on these events.

366 RICHARD ROSERA: Thank you.

367 CHAIR LEMOS: Thank you.

368 OPERATOR: Thank you. Our next comment comes from Mahti  
369 Chindouri[?]. Please go ahead. Your line is open.

370 MAHTI CHINDOURI[?]: Hi. My name is Mahti Chindouri  
371 Chininga[?] and I'm with the American Chemistry Council.  
372 Firstly, I'd like to join my peers in congratulating you, Dr.  
373 Lemos, on your new appointment. And, of course, thanking Dr.  
374 Kulinowski for your service.

375 My question is regarding the new accidental release  
376 reporting goal, which went into effect last month. I was  
377 wondering if you had any preliminary insights on its effect and  
378 the type of information it's generating.

379 CHAIR LEMOS: So thank you, Mahti, I looking forward to  
380 working with you. I'm aware of the new reporting rule and I'll  
381 put this...I will definitely note this interest and the specific  
382 questions for public comment.

383 I still have yet to be briefed on the...in its entirety, which  
384 is why I'm unable to answer any of those details right now. But  
385 certainly for public comment, I will...I'll make sure that we do  
386 address those moving forward.

387 MAHTI CHINDOURI: Thank you.

388 CHAIR LEMOS: So we do have a question that came in from the  
389 e-mail address. This question is from Kevin Druley at the  
390 National Safety Council. And the question is, "What is CSB's  
391 understanding of a possible timeline for bringing new members

392 onboard? With Dr. Kulinowski's final meeting today, how will the  
393 agency proceed with only one Board Member going forward?"

394 So I have to say that that's an excellent question. And I  
395 will...again, that will...that information will be in the public  
396 comment record for response and...and for our addressing it. If I  
397 had specific information today, we would provide it. But we are  
398 working through those details.

399 OPERATOR: Thank you. At this time, I'm not showing any  
400 further comments. I would like to turn the call back over to the  
401 host.

402 CHAIR LEMOS: Thank you, Zinara. We do have one other  
403 question that came in from... And I'm going to try to read this  
404 name appropriately, Michael Serafilia[?], and I'm not sure that  
405 there is a association for Michael, if he's on the phone.

406 So the comments are, "Excellent update on the current status  
407 of open investigations. How does the CSB determine which  
408 incident they will respond to? There was an explosion at a  
409 papermill in Jay, Maine on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2020. While no  
410 fatalities were reported, there was significant damage and  
411 significant economic impacts to the plant, local community, as  
412 well as loggers and truckers." The question is, "Will a team  
413 investigate this incident?"

414 And my assumption here is this is the same event that Steve  
415 Solomon was referring to in the first question. Dr. Kulinowski,  
416 would you like to answer that?

417 MEMBER KULINOWSKI: Yes, thank you, Chair Lemos. I can  
418 comment generically about the CSB's decision making for whether  
419 or not it's deployed. And, as we've discussed before, the CSB  
420 has multiple criteria that it uses to determine whether or not  
421 it's going to deploy to an incident.

422 First, of course, is whether it's in our jurisdiction. And  
423 then our criteria are largely consequence-based. Was the loss of  
424 life, property damage, or significant injury that would warrant  
425 us to deploy? Unfortunately, we also look at the available  
426 resources for deployment. And during my time as Interim  
427 Executive, I also had concerns about sending investigators into  
428 the field during an active pandemic.

429 So when incidents come in to our screening department, we  
430 weigh all of these factors and then make a go or no-go decision.  
431 Even if we don't deploy, we often collect information about the  
432 incident and...and continue to monitor it for...for our...for our  
433 internal purposes.

434 So that's what I can tell you about our deployment decision  
435 making.

436 CHAIR LEMOS: Thank you, Dr. Kulinowski. Zinara, there are  
437 no other questions from online?

438 OPERATOR: I am showing a few comments if you'd like to take  
439 them.

440 CHAIR LEMOS: Absolutely.

441 OPERATOR: Our next comment comes from Dave Sierra. Please  
442 go ahead. Your line is open.

443 DAVE SIERRA: Hello, this is Dave Sierra. I had a question  
444 regarding the reporting rule. And is the CSB planning or do you  
445 all envision doing any sort of guidance on...on that rule? And, if  
446 so, do you envision any opportunity for stakeholders to provide  
447 comment, either through a virtual stakeholder meeting or some  
448 other forum to elicit input for...for that?

449 CHAIR LEMOS: So, thank you, Dave. I am familiar with the  
450 fact that we just did pass a reporting rule and there was public  
451 comment on the rule itself. And I know we did get this question  
452 also from an earlier caller.

453 In terms of guidance, I am aware...I was informed yesterday  
454 that we are going to be providing some guidance for this rule.  
455 And I'm not, you know, familiar with the details, which is why I  
456 would just say for the rest of this, let's put it in the public  
457 comment to be addressed.

458 Typically, there...there is always stakeholder engagement in  
459 the products that we produce. So that's a very general comment  
460 that I would...I would have to say I don't know how it's going to  
461 work with this...with the guidance materials in specific because I  
462 haven't been briefed upon that yet.

463 DAVE SIERRA: Okay, thank you.

464 CHAIR LEMOS: Thank you, Dave.

465 OPERATOR: Thank you. Our next comment comes from Jeff  
466 Johnson. Please go ahead. Your line is open.

467 JEFF JOHNSON: Thank you and thanks for having this. I'm a  
468 reporter with *Chemical & Engineering News*. A number of the  
469 questions that I have have been already asked. Although some of  
470 the answers didn't [inaudible] forward. Can you tell me...? I  
471 think you mentioned one that I think was Didion, one  
472 investigation that's on hold because of lack of staff. Can you  
473 give me a sense of how many others there might be?

474 The other question, of course, is how many investigators are  
475 you actually short now? And do you have any idea when you might  
476 be able to fill them? Can you help me with that?

477 CHAIR LEMOS: So, yes, Dr. Kulinowski did mention several,  
478 and I don't know the count of exactly how many that are open, but  
479 yet on hold due to a staffing shortage of investigators. Again,

480 we do have seven incident investigators with two supervisory  
481 investigators. Obviously, that is short if we're not able to  
482 continue. But I don't know the exact count at this moment. Dr.  
483 Kulinowski, do you have any input for that?

484 MEMBER KULINOWSKI: Yeah, we're looking to hire at least ten  
485 more investigators. And we have an open action right now and  
486 a...we're...we're vetting some of the candidates now.

487 CHAIR LEMOS: Got it. I do know that it's active. We have,  
488 you know, several offers currently pending. We just brought on  
489 several more. So this is a high priority, top priority. So  
490 hopefully that...that addressed that...that same question.

491 JEFF JOHNSON: Yeah. Thank you, thank you.

492 OPERATOR: Thank you. Our next comment comes from...comes  
493 from David Miller. Please go ahead. Your line is open.

494 DAVID MILLER: Yes, thank you, operator. This is David  
495 Miller with the American Petroleum Institute. Not a question,  
496 just a comment. Of course, first and foremost, to congratulate  
497 you, Dr. Lemos, on your appointment. We look forward to working  
498 with you.

499 And then, of course, a comment to thank Dr. Kulinowski for  
500 her service for these five years and to wish her all the best in  
501 her future endeavors.



502           So really just two things there. And again, as others have  
503 said, thank you very much for having this business meeting. I  
504 appreciate the opportunity to call in. And while we can't see  
505 you on screen, we're glad to know that you're social distancing.  
506 [laughter] the appropriate thing to do at this point, right? So,  
507 again, thank you very much.

508           CHAIR LEMOS: Thank you, David. Again, we really do  
509 appreciate the congratulations and it is no small investment for  
510 Dr. Kulinowski for five years and the staff. I have to say there  
511 are so many dedicated staff at this agency that I'm meeting and  
512 have interacted with just recently, that I'm so fortunate to...to  
513 be working with. And I know we're going to accomplish, you know,  
514 significant improvements...continued improvements, I should say, as  
515 we move forward. Because I know there have already been quite a  
516 few.

517           So, in closing, I thank everyone here today and the staff,  
518 as well as my fellow Board Member, Dr. Kulinowski, for attending  
519 today's meeting.

520           I urge you, all of you, to continue monitoring our website,  
521 and if you haven't already done so, to sign up for CSB news  
522 alerts.

523 All of us share a strong interest in preventing chemical  
524 incidents in the future, and we need to work together as a  
525 community to do so.

526 So, Dr. Kulinowski, I believe you have some personal  
527 comments before we close.

528 MEMBER KULINOWSKI: Thank you, Chair Lemos. At the end of  
529 a...of a tenure like this, one gets retrospective. So if you'll  
530 permit me to go back in time a little bit.

531 When I was first approached about being considered for a  
532 position on the Board, I was very excited about being able to  
533 contribute to its important mission. Much of my prior work in  
534 occupational and environmental health and safety was compelling,  
535 but largely anticipatory. That work was aimed at thinking about  
536 how to prevent human and environmental damage from engineered  
537 nanomaterials, a relatively novel class of materials used in many  
538 different industrial sectors.

539 So we were laying the foundation for an assessment of the  
540 risk, based on early research that showed potential areas of...of  
541 concern. But these risks had not yet emerged.

542 The risks of major industrial accidents, such as the ones  
543 investigated by the CSB, are not theoretical. Every day in the  
544 U.S. and around the world, people go to work in high-hazard

545 industries. These industries remain vitally important to  
546 contributing to the coronavirus response.

547 And nearly every day, as our incident screening data  
548 demonstrates, something does not go as planned. Usually the  
549 unplanned releases of hazardous substances reported to us are  
550 small and relatively harmless. But that's not always the case.

551 Sometimes the magnitude and consequences are extreme. And  
552 when that happens, lives are lost, property destroyed, and  
553 communities left in tatters. Preventing these catastrophic  
554 events is the work of the CSB. It is important. It is  
555 compelling. And it has been my privilege to have contributed to  
556 it.

557 I have also appreciated the commitment of our staff, who  
558 dedicate their talents to this work and to my former Board  
559 Members for their service. I have learned much from all of you,  
560 for which I am grateful.

561 Finally, I would like to thank our many stakeholders for  
562 their unwavering support of the agency and its mission during  
563 some rather bleak times when our future seemed uncertain. And so  
564 I'm pleased but also farewell...but also sad to say farewell at  
565 this, my last public business meeting and last week at the  
566 agency.

567 But I am confident that the chair will thrive under your  
568 leadership, Chair Lemos, as you are an experienced safety  
569 professional, committed to its success. I will be cheering for  
570 you and the staff from the sidelines. And, like at least 100,000  
571 subscribers, eagerly awaiting for that next safety video to be  
572 posted to the YouTube channel. [laughter]

573 Thank you all and let us continue to envision a nation safe  
574 from chemical catastrophe.

575 CHAIR LEMOS: Thank you, Dr. Kulinowski. What a wonderful  
576 way to close out this meeting. Thank you, everyone, for your  
577 attendance. And with that, this meeting is adjourned.

578 OPERATOR: Thank you. And thank you, ladies and gentlemen.  
579 This concludes today's conference. Thank you for participating.  
580 You may now disconnect.