



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	DuPont LaPorte Facility Toxic Chemical Release
Recommendation Number(s):	2015-01-I-TX-R6
Date Issued:	September 30, 2015
Recipient:	DuPont LaPorte, Texas Chemical Facility
New Status:	Closed – Acceptable Action
Date of Status Change:	August 11, 2016

Recommendation Text:

CSB Recommendation No. 2015-01-I-TX-R6

Make publicly available (on a website) a summary of the DuPont November 15, 2014 incident investigation report, the integrated plan for restart, and actions to be taken for the implementation of Recommendations R1 through R5. This website must be periodically updated to accurately reflect the integrated plan for restart and implementation of Recommendations R1 through R5.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On November 15, 2014, nearly 24,000 pounds of methyl mercaptan was released inside the Lannate® unit at the E. I. du Pont de Nemours chemical manufacturing facility in La Porte, Texas (DuPont). The release resulted in the fatalities of three operators and a shift supervisor inside the Lannate® manufacturing building. The four DuPont employees died from a combination of asphyxia and acute exposure to toxic chemicals including methyl mercaptan. All four victims were located inside the manufacturing building—three on the third floor and one descending the stairs between the third and second floor. The Board issued interim recommendations to the DuPont LaPorte facility, including a recommendation to ensure public transparency concerning the cause of the accident and ongoing plans for the safe restart of the unit.

B. Response to the Recommendation

In July 2016, DuPont informed the Board that it is in the process of developing and executing plans to decommission and permanently dismantle the manufacturing facilities in La Porte's Insecticide Business Unit (IBU) and Herbicide Business Unit (HBU). DuPont cited that there have been changes in the global crop protection chemicals market, and that based on these changes, DuPont has concluded that resumption of production is no longer feasible. DuPont stated that in response to Recommendation No. 2015-1-I-TX-R6, DuPont had posted a summary of the DuPont November 15, 2014 incident investigation report, and a statement addressing the implementation of Recommendations 2015-1-I-TX-R1 through 2015-1-I-TX-R5 on the website: www.LaporteInvestigationReport.com.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based on DuPont's actions to satisfy this recommendation, the Board voted to designate **Recommendation No. 2015-1-I-TX-R6** with the status "**Closed – Acceptable Action.**" The CSB encouraged DuPont to continue to make this information available despite closure of the facility, so that others may learn from the DuPont investigation findings.