

**U.S. Chemical Safety and
Hazard Investigation Board**

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Katherine A. Lemos
Chairman and CEO



October 7, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Chair
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable H. Morgan Griffith
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Request for Backlog Reduction Schedule

To Committee Leadership,

Thank you for the opportunity to engage with you in the hearing titled, "*Protecting Communities from Industrial Accidents: Revitalizing the Chemical Safety Board.*" We appreciate your support for the critical mission of this agency.

At the request of the Subcommittee Chair for Oversight and Investigations, we are providing our current planning regarding completion of our investigations and reduction of our backlog (see Attachment 1: *CSB Chemical Incident Investigation - Summary and Schedule of Open Investigations dated 07 OCT 2021*).

Per my statements in the hearing, the next four investigations set for completion and board approval by the end of Quarter 2 FY 2022 are:

- Sunoco – Nederland, TX (8/16/2016)
- Loy-Lange Box Company, St. Louis, MO (4/3/2017)
- Didion Milling – Cambria, WI (5/31/2017)
- Bio-Lab – Conyers, GA (9/14/2020)

The CSB's plan to address the 18 open investigations in an accelerated manner, while maintaining product integrity, will require our adopting an aggressive and agile approach.

Concurrently, the CSB will continue to refine the process model moving forward that accommodates a range of investigative products and timelines to effectively serve our community and meet our full mandate. We have already started to apply this new model, which resulted in our completing two investigations in Quarter 4, after a test run in Quarter 3.

This accelerated plan produces the completion of incident reports through transparent virtual and/or hybrid board meetings for as many as four investigations each quarter for FY22 and FY23.

- All current investigations would be on track to complete within this two-year timeframe.
- The attached plan is based on our assessment as of today, and assumes flexibility in the timeframe for completing investigations, as dynamic re-assessments are required based on numerous external and internal factors. For example: The order of completion may change based on factors outside of our control (e.g., unsafe structure, site contamination), or if we identify a high-priority incident that is ready for release and warrants an accelerated placement in the queue.
- The plan allows for deployments to continue at the FY 2021 rate and assumes that funds for new Mission Product team members will be appropriated, with staff onboarded and trained.

With older investigations prioritized, all open incidents occurring prior to CY 2020 would be completed in FY 2022.

- The new process model would permit board members to review and vote on currently issued recommendations simultaneously.
- To ensure transparency and CSB's accountability to the timeline, we will be setting firm dates for virtual board meetings at the start of each fiscal year.

Sincerely,



Dr. Katherine A. Lemos
Chairman and CEO
U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board
1750 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 910
Washington, DC 20006

Enclosure: Attachment 1: *CSB Chemical Incident Investigation - Summary and Schedule of Open Investigations dated 07 OCT 2021*

Attachment 1

CSB Chemical Incident Investigation - Summary and Schedule of Open Investigations				
Date: 07 OCT 2021*				
	Incident Date	Investigation	Incident Location	Anticipated Board Meeting Timeframe
1	8/12/2016	Sunoco	Nederland, TX	FY22 Q1-Q2
2	4/3/2017	Loy-Lange Box Company	St. Louis, MO	FY22 Q2
3	5/31/2017	Didion Milling	Cambria, WI	FY22 Q2
4	9/14/2020	Bio-Lab Conyers	Conyers, GA	FY22 Q2
5	4/26/2018	Husky Energy Refinery	Superior, WI	FY22 Q2-Q3
6	5/19/2018	Kuraray EVAL	Pasadena, TX	FY22 Q3
7	1/24/2020	Watson Manufacturing and Grinding	Houston, TX	FY22 Q3
8	6/21/2019	Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES)	Philadelphia, PA	FY22 Q3-Q4
9	3/17/2019	Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC)	Deer Park, TX	FY22 Q4
10	11/27/2019	TPC Group	Port Neches, TX	FY22 Q4
11	4/2/2019	KMCO	Crosby, TX	FY22 Q4 - FY23 Q1
12	8/27/2020	Bio-Lab Lake Charles	Lake Charles, LA	FY23 Q1
13	1/29/2020	Wendland 1H Well	Burleson County, TX	FY23 Q1
14	11/13/2020	Wacker Polysilicon North America	Charleston, TN	FY23 Q1
15	12/9/2020	Optima-Belle LLC	Belle, WV	FY23 Q2
16	1/28/2021	Foundation Food Group	Gainesville, GA	FY23 Q2
17	4/8/2021	Yenkin-Majestic	Columbus, OH	FY23 Q2
18	7/27/2021	LyondellBasell	LaPorte, TX	FY23 Q3

** Estimated schedule for completion is subject to change based on external factors and investigation complexity.*