

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

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Board Member



March 6, 2015

Honorable Ted W. Lieu  
U.S. House of Representatives  
415 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Maxine Waters  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2221 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Lieu and Waters:

Thank you for your letter earlier today regarding the explosion on February 18, 2015, at the ExxonMobil refinery in Torrance, California. We have been concerned about this incident since it first occurred due to the reports of injuries, extensive property damage, and the release of catalyst material into the surrounding community.

At the time the incident occurred, we had few resources available to consider deployment of a CSB team. In the past few weeks, however, we have been able to advance our DuPont field investigation in Texas and complete a draft of the final volumes of our Deepwater Horizon report. Due to this progress – and in light of your request and your concerns about refinery safety, which we share – we will now mobilize a CSB team to the site. We plan to deploy 4-5 CSB investigators and subject-matter experts to the site on Monday, March 9, along with several support personnel needed to assure personnel safety. We have made initial contacts with Exxon, Cal OSHA, and the United Steelworkers to discuss the deployment.

We look forward to briefing you and your staff in the next few days as the investigation proceeds.

Sincerely,

Rafael Moure-Eraso, Ph.D.