



# U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

## RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE

### SUMMARY

<b>Report:</b>	Dow Louisiana Operations Explosions
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2023-03-I-LA-R1
<b>Date Issued:</b>	February 26, 2026
<b>Recipient:</b>	The Dow Chemical Company
<b>New Status:</b>	Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	June 9, 2026

#### **Recommendation Text:**

*At all Dow ethylene oxide facilities, identify all process lines in ethylene oxide service that should be or are inerted and currently are not continuously monitored during normal operation. For all lines identified, determine whether the line can be eliminated, and if not, establish proper controls such as inerting and monitoring to ensure the process line is adequately inerted.*

#### **Board Status Change Decision:**

##### A. Rationale for Recommendation

On July 14, 2023, a series of explosions and fires occurred at the Dow Chemical Company's facility in Plaquemine, LA. The incident was caused by the inadvertent mixing of ethylene oxide and air within process equipment. The incident resulted in the release of 31,000 pounds of ethylene oxide, a shelter-in-place order for the local community, and significant property damage to the facility.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found several safety issues including deficiencies in vessel closure, inerting system control, and pressure relief system design. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued one recommendation to The Dow Chemical Company. This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2023-03-I-LA-R1.

##### B. Response to the Recommendation

The Dow Chemical Company has notified the CSB that they intend to implement the recommendation. They have provided a plan of action that appears when implemented will satisfy the objectives of the recommendation and they have provided a timetable for completion.

##### C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based upon the information above, the Board voted to change CSB Recommendation No. 2023-03-I-LA-R1 to: "Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response."