



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

<b>Report:</b>	Veolia Environmental Services Flammable Vapor Explosion and Fire
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2009-10-I-OH-R7, superseded 2007-1-I-NC-R3
<b>Date Issued:</b>	July 21, 2010
<b>Recipient:</b>	Environmental Technology Council (ETC)
<b>New Status:</b>	Open – Unacceptable Response / No Response Received
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	April 15, 2019

### Recommendation Text:

*Develop and issue standardized guidance for the processing, handling and storage of hazardous waste to reduce the likelihood of fires, explosions, and releases at hazardous waste treatment storage and disposal facilities. Include the incident findings, consequences, conclusions, and recommendations from the CSB investigations of the Environmental Quality facility and the Veolia ES Technical Solutions.*

### Board Status Change Decision:

#### A. Rationale for Recommendation

On May 4, 2009, flammable vapor was released from a solvent recovery process which ignited and exploded at a state-permitted treatment, storage and disposal facility (TSDF). The TSDF provided waste services for industrial and municipal customers and was operated by Veolia ES Technical Solutions LLC in West Carrollton, Ohio. The initial blast injured four workers, two seriously. Multiple subsequent explosions significantly damaged the site; nearby residences and businesses also sustained considerable damage.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) reviewed industry standards as a part of its investigation and found that none existed that provide guidance for TSDFs to operate safely. The CSB reached a similar conclusion in a previous investigation of a 2006 fire at Environmental Quality; another waste facility in Apex, North Carolina. In that incident, thirty people needed medical attention, thousands of residences were evacuated, and the facility was completely destroyed.

As an earlier recommendation to the Environmental Technology Council (ETC) from the Environmental Quality investigation had not yet been implemented, the CSB voted to supersede that recommendation with a more comprehensive one that includes the more recent Veolia investigation. The CSB "supersedes" a recommendation when a new one is more appropriate involving the same recommendation recipient. Thus, Recommendation No. 2007-01-I-NC-R3 from the Environmental Quality investigation was designated by the Board with the status of "Closed-Reconsidered/Superseded". That recommendation is then replaced by the new recommendation to ETC (see above), which was designed to more comprehensively address accident prevention at TSDFs by preventing chemical, fire, explosion, release and other hazards.

#### B. Response to the Recommendation

In April 2011, ETC submitted its “Guidance on Development of Best Management Practices for Reactive Chemical Wastes-Voluntary Practices for Hazardous Waste TSD Facilities” to the CSB in response to this recommendation.

In December of 2011, the Board changed the status of this recommendation to “Open—Acceptable Response/Alternative Response,” but found the Best Practices document to be limited in scope and communicated to ETC that it needed to be revised to include other serious hazards, such as flammables and toxics, before the Board would consider closing this recommendation as an “Acceptable Action.”

C. Board Analysis and Decision

After numerous unsuccessful follow-up attempts by the CSB over the past six years to obtain a revised version of the Best Management Practices from ETC, the Board voted to change the status of CSB Recommendation no. 2009-10-I-OH-R7 to: “**Open—Unacceptable Response/ No Response Received.**”