



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

Report:	DuPont LaPorte Facility Toxic Chemical Release
Recommendation Number:	2015-01-I-TX-R7
Date Issued:	September 30, 2015
Recipient:	International Chemical Workers Union Council (ICWUC) and ICWU/UFCW Local 900C
New Status:	Closed – No Longer Applicable
Date of Status Change:	March 5, 2018

Recommendation Text:

Work together with DuPont to develop and implement a plan to ensure active participation of the workforce and their representatives in the implementation of Recommendations R1 through R4.

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.

On September 30, 2015, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) voted to approve seven interim recommendations during the ongoing investigation of this incident. Six of the recommendations were issued to the DuPont La Porte, TX facility. These recommendations addressed issues uncovered during the investigation to date; namely: (1) Lack of an inherently safer design review for the process; (2) Lack of a documented design basis for the manufacturing building; (3) Unsafe relief system discharge points at several locations in the unit; (4) Deficiencies uncovered in existing process hazard analyses; (5) Ensure active workforce participation during the restart; and (6) Ensure public transparency concerning the cause of the accident and ongoing plans for the safe restart of the unit. Additionally, one parallel recommendation was issued to the ICWUC and the ICWU/UFCW Local 900C to ensure active workforce participation during the restart. This status change summary only addresses the recommendation issued to the ICWUC and the ICWU/UFCW Local 900C (e.g., 2015-01-I-TX-R7).

B. Response to the Recommendation

In February of 2018, the ICWUC and ICWU/UFCW Local 900C informed the CSB that they have agreed that since the Insecticide Business Unit at the DuPont La Porte, TX facility has been shut down and dismantled, it is no longer necessary for them to work actively with DuPont to ensure the implementation of CSB Recommendation Nos. 2015-01-I-TX-R1 through R4 making this recommendation is no longer applicable.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based on the above response from the ICWUC and ICWU/UFCW Local 900C, the Board voted change the status of CSB Recommendation No. 2015-01-I-TX-R7 to: “**Closed—No Longer Applicable.**”