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SHELL DEER PARK CHEMICALS DISASTER Official Statement From Fenceline Watch

The Shell Deer Park Chemicals facility disaster that occurred on May 5th, and is still ongoing, is a disgraceful event that lays bare Shell’s disregard for public safety and health. This disaster is simply the most recent disaster in a pattern of safety violations that put the surrounding neighborhoods and fenceline communities in Deer Park, Houston, and surrounding areas in harm’s way.

The Shell Deer Park Chemicals plant sits in a three-mile radius that ranks in the 95th-100th percentile for air toxics respiratory illness, 95th-100th percentile for air toxics cancer risk, and in the 99th percentile for proximity to facilities under the Risk Management Plan, meaning facilities that handle extremely hazardous materials. Fenceline communities, especially those in Texas, which leads the nation in uninsured¹ and last for prenatal and maternal care², are forced to absorb the deadly costs of these toxic disasters.

EPA found the Shell Deer Park Chemicals facility to have significant compliance violations of the Clean Air Act over the past 12 quarters³. As recently as June 2021, the facility had what EPA deemed five high-priority Clean Air Act violations⁴. EPA found the violations at the Shell Deer Park Chemicals facility so egregious that it initially objected to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

proposed Title V air permit renewal in 2022; citing inadequacies in air monitoring, recordkeeping, and discrepancy/improper emissions reporting⁵.

Our communities along the Houston Ship Channel are forced to endure the toxic costs of petrochemical production. Fifteen workers had to receive medical attention. The Shell Deer Park Chemicals facility

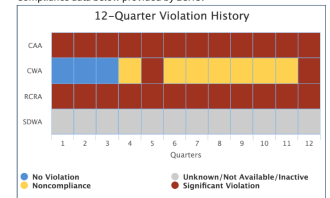
Other Regulatory Data

In addition to TRI, this facility reports to the programs listed below. The table below reflects regulatory data contained within Envirofacts and may not reflect all other EPA regulatory data:

Statute/Program	Universe	Media	Identifier
Clean Air Act (CAA)	AIR MAJOR	Air	TX0000004820102076
Clean Air Act (CAA)	AIR MAJOR	Air	TX0000004820101535
Clean Air Act (CAA)	AIR MAJOR	Air	TX0000004820100653
Clean Air Act (CAA)	AIR MAJOR	Air	TX0000004820100039
Clean Water Act (CWA)	ICIS-NPDES NON-MAJOR	Water	TXG670438
Clean Water Act (CWA)	ICIS-NPDES NON-MAJOR	Water	TXG670437
Clean Water Act (CWA)	ICIS-NPDES MAJOR	Water	TX0004871
Clean Water Act (CWA)	ICIS-NPDES MAJOR	Water	TX0004863
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)	LQG	Land	TXR000085805

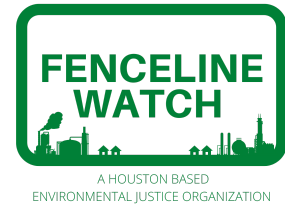
Compliance Information

Compliance data below provided by ECHO.



Go to ECHO for More Enforcement and Compliance Data

¹ <https://www.texastribune.org/2022/03/21/texas-medicaid-insurance/>
² <https://www.texmed.org/Template.aspx?id=59688>
³ <https://enviro.epa.gov/facts/tri/ef-facilities/#/Facility/77536SHLLLHIGHW/SHELL%20CHEMICAL%20LP>
⁴ <https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110031267064>
⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-11/11-2-22%20Shell%20Objection%20Letter%2001668.pdf>



produces phenol, acetone, ethylene, propylene, butylenes, all petrochemicals used in **plastic production**. Shell Deer Park produces a number of plastic precursor feedstocks, including known carcinogens benzene, 1,3 butadiene, epichlorohydrin, and ethylbenzene. No community member should be put at risk of cancer or serious injury from explosion, fire, or respiratory illness for plastic.

We subsidize the cost of cheap disposable plastic at the fenceline of oil rigs, petrochemical plants, and incinerators. Enough studies and reports have confirmed the price we pay with our lives, from shortened lifespans, reproductive harm, and developmental issues; these toxics trespass our bodies and harm our communities for generations. **Just one day before the Deer Park disaster Shell announced a record-breaking profit of over \$ 9.6 billion dollars**⁶. Holding polluters accountable and creating safety controls is the bare minimum. As a community-based organization in Houston, Texas, at the mouth of the largest petrochemical complex in the nation (over 618 petrochemical manufacturers), we have experienced catastrophes first-hand. Industries will always use a jobs argument and never mention the explosions, water contamination, dumping grounds, poor working conditions, or lives lost. Fortunately, a growing consciousness of plastic's true cost permeates society and openly resists the sacrifice we pay for trash. We are actively developing a resource for communities facing chemical disasters it will formally launch later this year.

Like so many, we fight for our lives by changing the rules, translating information, fighting permits against these polluting industries, and closing knowledge gaps. **At the global level, Fenceline Watch, along with advocates from around the globe and hundreds of countries are taking action through the Global Plastics Treaty**⁷. At the national level, Senator Booker (D-NJ), Rep. Huffman (CA-2), Senator Merkley (D-OR), and over 40 congresspeople, including Texas' own Rep. Lloyd Doggett, are calling on EPA to address the plastic crisis with SB 5163⁸, Protecting Communities from Plastic Act.

The Shell Deer Park disaster is yet another reminder of the toxic dangers that this facility poses to our community and to the safety of the community at large.

**-Fenceline Watch,
A Houston-based environmental justice organization**

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/may/04/shell-makes-record-quarterly-profits-of-nearly-10bn>

⁷ <https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment/inc-plastic-pollution>

⁸ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/5163>