



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

Report:	Veolia Environmental Services Flammable Vapor Explosion and Fire
Recommendation Number:	2009-10-I-OH-R7, superseded 2007-1-I-NC-R3
Date Issued:	July 21, 2010
Recipient:	Environmental Technology Council (ETC)
New Status:	Closed – Acceptable Action
Date of Status Change:	October 26, 2020

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 released from a solvent recovery process ignited and exploded at a state-permitted treatment, storage and disposal facility (TSDF) that provided waste services for industrial and municipal customers operated by Veolia Environmental Services (ES) Technical Solutions LLC in West Carrollton, Ohio. The initial blast injured four workers, two of whom were seriously injured. Multiple subsequent explosions significantly damaged the site. Nearby residences and businesses also sustained considerable damage.

The CSB reviewed industry standards as a part of its investigation and found that none exist 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 ETC from the Environmental Quality investigation had not yet been implemented, the CSB Board voted to supersede that recommendation with a more comprehensive one that addresses factors from the more recent Veolia investigation. The CSB "supersedes" a recommendation when a new one to the same recipient is more appropriate. 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from the Environmental Quality investigation was designated by the Board with the status of "Closed--Reconsidered/Superseded." This in effect was then replaced by this new recommendation to ETC from the Veolia investigation (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 February 2020, ETC responded to the CSB that it had revised its *Guidance on Development of Best Management Practices for Reactive, Ignitable/Flammable, and Toxic Chemical Wastes* in January 2020 to address ignitable/flammable and toxic hazards in addition to reactive chemical hazards. A copy of the revised guidelines was provided to CSB for review. ETC also advised the CSB that these revised guidelines are posted on the ETC website in the members section for easy reference by its member companies.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

In December of 2011, the Board found the 2009 ETC guidelines to be limited in scope and communicated to ETC that they 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.”

As the January 2020 revision of ETC’s *Guidance on Development of Best Management Practices for Reactive, Ignitable/Flammable, and Toxic Chemical Wastes* addresses the above concerns, the Board voted to change the status of CSB Recommendation No. 2009-10-I-OH-R7 to: “Closed – Acceptable Action.”