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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EPA reviewing model that indicates significantly lower risk from LaPlace chemical operations than previously suggested

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notified the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality in a September 2019 letter that EPA has accepted an advanced chloroprene toxicology model for review. The new model could fundamentally change EPA's 2010 IRIS toxicological assessment of chloroprene, a chemical emitted by the Pontchartrain Works Plant operated by Denka Performance Elastomer in LaPlace, Louisiana.

The EPA letter states the agency will review the new toxicity model, which uses a more advanced and accurate method of determining risk in humans than the 2010 assessment. Based on the new model, the EPA suggestion of 0.2 µg/m³ concentration should be updated to be approximately 130 times higher.

The EPA letter also states the 2010 IRIS assessment, "which is not based on an evaluation of current, real-world exposures, is not an air quality standard and is not used directly for regulatory purposes."

The new model's findings were published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Inhalation Toxicology* in January 2020 and are supported by existing scientific research, including decades-long health studies of chloroprene facility workers and health statistics compiled by the Louisiana Tumor Registry. These results suggest DPE's operations do not create any increased risks to the people who work or live near the 60-year-old plant. The study is available for review online here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08958378.2020.1715513>

The new model, called a physiologically-based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) model is considered to be more accurate in predicting human interaction with chemicals compared with the methods used by the 2010 assessment, and follows recommended practices for modeling risks set by the National Academy of Sciences and the World Health Organization.

A formal revision of the 2010 assessment could still be a number of months away. EPA is currently reviewing the new model internally, which will be followed by an external peer review by other scientists, which the agency estimates could take approximately nine months to complete. If accepted, EPA would use the model to update its study in a process that could take additional time.

In addition to working correct the science, DPE voluntarily invested more than \$35 million in air emissions reduction technologies, which have reduced the amount of chloroprene the facility emits by approximately 85 percent. The company continues to work with state and federal regulatory agencies both to develop the best science regarding the chemical, and to identify opportunities to further reduce the facility's footprint.

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About Denka Performance Elastomer

Denka Performance Elastomer LLC acquired DuPont's Neoprene manufacturing operations in LaPlace. DPE employs more than 200 direct employees.

DPE intends to make strategic investments in the facility while adhering to a key DPE guideline to develop and supply products that are safe and environmentally friendly. DPE considers the careful handling of materials and products and the prevention of their unauthorized release into the environment as its most important mission as a chemical manufacturer.