

Meeting Minutes MRC Oversight Committee

 **Date:** 12/14/2023

 **Start:** 10:00 AM

 **End:** 10:38 AM

Members of the public can sign up to receive updates when new information is released related to the work of the Oversight Committee including agendas, meeting minutes, recordings, etc., at <https://www.cchealth.org/health-and-safety-information/hazardous-materials/martinez-refining-company-2022-hazmat-release-incident>

I. CALL TO ORDER

Called to order by Nicole Heath at 10:02 AM

Attendance

Community Members: Cheryll Grover, Benjamin Therriault, Pedro Babiak, Tony Semenza, Deirdre Castillo, Kent Hull, Thomas Lang
City of Martinez: Steven Devine
City of Benicia: Josh Chadwick
Contra Costa Hazmat: Nicole Heath, Michael Dossey, Sam Calvert (absent), Adam Springer (absent), David Lecount (absent)
MRC: Ken Axe
MRC USW Rep: Nick Plurkowski

II. OPEN ISSUES

- a. The purpose of today's meeting was to provide an update on the three projects being overseen by the Oversight Committee
- b. Status update on the Community Risk Assessment
TRC was hired to complete the Community Risk Assessment. The sampling was completed and a report was prepared and submitted to the Oversight Committee for comment. A revised report was issued and provided to the public. A public meeting was held on September 25, 2023. Public comments were received and TRC is working on developing responses, including conducting a statistical analysis. Once the responses are completed a final report will be issued and presented to the City of Martinez and the County Board of Supervisors.
- c. Status update on the Root Cause Analysis Incident Investigation
Scott Berger & Associates was hired to conduct the independent Root Cause Analysis Incident Investigation. Site work was completed and an initial report was submitted in October 2023 to MRC for a review to make sure it did not contain any confidential details and then submitted to the County and the Oversight Committee. This report was reviewed by Contra Costa Hazmat's Accidental Release Prevention Engineers and identified select items to be site-verified for technical confirmation and readability improvements made to the report to make it easier for the public to understand. The revised draft report was submitted to MRC on 12/13/23 for a 48-hour confidential business information review. Once the report completes this review process, it will be shared with Contra Costa Hazmat and the Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee will have two weeks to review and comment on the report once it is issued.

d. Status update on the Safety Culture Assessment

Scott Berger & Associates was hired to conduct the independent Safety Culture Assessment. The contract with the county has been completed. The consultant is working with MRC to update their existing confidentiality agreement used for the independent Root Cause Analysis Incident Investigation to include the additional Safety Culture Assessment work. After this agreement has been completed, work can begin.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a.** No new business was discussed

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public were given 2 minutes each to comment. During this period, 6 comments were received from the public and 1 comment was received from an Oversight Committee member. One public comment was related to whether MRC is using inherently safer control devices to minimize particulate matter emissions from the catalytic cracking unit and whether the independent safety culture assessment (SCA) will be doing more than reviewing MRC's own SCA report. One public comment was that an incident can have more than 1 root cause and since MRC sent material to the flare before the incident the safest thing they should have done was to shut down the plant, fix the issue, and then restart it. One public comment was related to a public records request for MRC data seeking copies of management of change records related to crude oil changes, inherently safer system analysis reports, and documentation associated with the Catalytic Cracking Unit for slide valve damage. One public comment was related to the public having a sense of urgency due to the number of separate refinery incidents lately. One public comment was related to the concerns raised today represent those from many community members interested in holding the refinery accountable. One Oversight Committee member's comment was related to whether any of the TRC report conclusions are expected to change based on the public comments.

Responses to comments:

Nicole responded to one of the public comments and identified that the consultant hired to do the independent SCA will be using the data collected by MRC from their SCA to draw their own conclusions.

Nicole responded to one of the public comments and identified that Contra Costa Hazmat takes every incident very seriously and follows up with each of them after they occur. There are built-in delays in our process but that does not diminish their importance.

Nicole responded to the one Oversight Committee member's question that TRC is working on addressing the comments from the public on the background studies used. It is not anticipated that any changes to the conclusion will occur.

V. ROUND TABLE

Nicole mentioned that going forward monthly Oversight Committee meetings will be held.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 AM.

For the full discussion, please see the recording of this meeting at <https://www.cchealth.org/health-and-safety-information/hazardous-materials/martinez-refining-company-2022-hazmat-release-incident>