

**For Immediate Release:****Graham Beduze****225-219-3964**Graham.Beduze@la.govwww.deq.louisiana.gov**LDEQ Statement on Denka Performance Elastomer LLC Notification Report**

Baton Rouge, LA—On September 25, 2024, a chloroprene spill occurred at Denka Performance Elastomer’s (DPE) Pontchartrain Site due to a mis-valve on the No. 1 CD Solution Tank. The spill was immediately identified, and DPE’s site alarm and Emergency Response Team were activated. Recovery operations for the chloroprene vapor began immediately, and measures such as suppression foam and plastic sheeting were applied to the spill to minimize emissions. Approximately 645 pounds of chloroprene vapor was released into the atmosphere as a result of the spill. The spilled material was contained in an area sump and retention pit, preventing any contact with the nearby ground or groundwater. The site’s continuous air monitoring system was operative during the incident. DPE also utilized Photo Ionizing Detectors (PIDs) around the sump and retention pit, ensuring emissions mitigation measures were effective. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Emergency Response Team performed community air monitoring for VOCs. No odor was detected or noted along the fence line of DPE. In addition, the fence-line monitoring array was reviewed for any off-site impacts, and no injuries resulted from this incident.

Following the incident, DPE’s Polymers area was shut down, and a factory-wide safety stand down was initiated. DPE is evaluating training requirements and updating them as necessary to prevent future occurrences.

DPE is permitted under Title V of the Clean Air Act, and all necessary notifications have been made to the proper agencies, including the Louisiana State Police and the St. John Office of Emergency Preparedness. The spill was cleaned up within hours on the same day, and the continuous fence line monitoring system remains in operation.

LSP Incident #24-03549

St. John OEP Incident #24-0083347

AI #199310

