

CSB AGENCY EQUITY ACTION PLAN

(1) Executive summary

The CSB's mission is to "**drive chemical safety change through independent investigation to protect people and the environment.**" The CSB's vision is "a nation safe from chemical disasters."

Protecting people means not only protecting our nation's workforce at fixed chemical facilities, but also protecting the fenceline communities who are historically underserved and disproportionately localized in communities of color. Environmental awareness and protection is also a key CSB role.

The CSB is committed to best practices in contracting opportunities for minority and veteran owned contractors and businesses.

(2) Summary of early accomplishments

The potential impact to fenceline communities is a focus of agency predeployment incident review. If there is potential impact to a fenceline community or to the environment outside of a chemical facility, this is taken into consideration in determining the appropriate CSB response, review, and full deployment of an investigative team. Although the CSB charter statute requires investigation where an accidental release causes a fatality or serious injury, or had the potential to cause a number of deaths or injuries among the general public, the CSB considers impact beyond what would be a statutorily required investigation when conducting analysis on response.

An example of this focus is the recent deployment of members of the CSB Executive Leadership Team to a chemical incident in Rockton, IL to tour the fenceline and inspect environmental mitigation efforts and contingencies as part of the incident evaluation.

The CSB has also better communicated with the EPA on the coordination with the Risk Management Plan (RMP), which is submitted every five years. A more robust, inclusive, and coordinated RMP will better serve these communities and make them safer.

(3) Equity action plan

A. **Barrier to Equitable Outcome(s)**

Fenceline communities are particularly susceptible to harm from chemical incidents given their proximity and these communities are often underserved and often communities of color. More focus on their safety and community communication will lead to more positive outcomes.

B. Action and Intended Impact

- *The potential impact to fenceline communities and the adjacent environment is a component of the evaluation of a chemical incident.*
- *This component is incorporated into the analysis to better protect people, to include fenceline communities, from future chemical incidents.*
- *More focus on potential impact to fenceline communities will result in an increase in safety to those communities through CSB investigations, safety recommendations, and the successful implementation of those safety recommendations at industrial sites nationwide.*
- *A stronger and more robust EPA Risk Management Plan (RMP) will result in safer outcomes to our communities adjacent to chemical facilities.*

C. Tracking Progress

- *Agency action will result in more detailed review of incidents featuring potential negative impact to fenceline communities and will allow for a better picture of challenges facing these communities which will be considered in formulation of Critical Drivers and agency planning and forecasting. (2-4 years out).*
- *In the long run, this will result in more safety recommendations focused on protecting these communities. The successful implantation of those safety recommendations will better serve these communities, will work to reduce the number of severe chemical accidents, and will serve to protect people in accordance with our mission statement. (5-8 years out).*

D. Accountability

- *Impact to the fenceline community will be evaluated in every chemical incident review and impact to fenceline communities will be incorporated into the Agency Strategic Plan if appropriate.*