

TCEQ Analysis of TCEQ Contractor Surface Water Quality Sampling Data 3/25/19 Update 3 (preliminary lab results)

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) received preliminary surface water quality data for 117 constituents at two (2) different sites. One sample was collected at each site on March 21, 2019 by the TCEQ’s contractor. The constituents consist of inorganics, organics, nutrients, and oil and grease in water. The sampling sites were the following:

- Tucker Bayou @ Buffalo Bayou Outside of Containment Boom
- Upstream Tucker Bayou

This assessment is based on preliminary results received from the laboratory. These laboratory results are subject to change once the final report is issued. The TCEQ is providing the assessment of preliminary results in an abundance of caution to make this information publicly available as quickly as possible. As sample results are received, or additional water quality sampling is completed, the data will be assessed, and results made available.

The TCEQ used the Texas Water Quality Standards and the Texas Risk Reduction Program as references for determining the known health protective concentration levels (PCLs) in surface water. The TCEQ is using these PCLs to evaluate impacts to aquatic life and human health. No public drinking water system draws its source water from the Houston Ship Channel. This methodology was also used for previously reviewed data from samples collected by ITC and will be used to review samples from the TCEQ.

- 102 constituents were analyzed but were not detected (not detected above the method detection limit or quantitation limit);
- 15 constituents had results detected above the method detection limit or quantitation limit at Tucker Bayou @ Buffalo Bayou Outside of Containment Boom, and Upstream Tucker Bayou.
 - 13 of the 15 constituents were below their known protective concentration levels;
 - Below are tables of constituents that exceeded their known PCLs.

Table 1: Tucker Bayou @ Buffalo Bayou Outside of Containment Boom

Constituent	Maximum (micrograms/L)	PCL (micrograms/L)
Oil and Grease, HEM	30400	28000

Table 2: Upstream Tucker Bayou

Constituent	Maximum (ug/L)	PCL (ug/L)
Cyanide, Total	13.3	5.6