

TCEQ Analysis of TCEQ Contractor Water Quality Sampling Data 3/24/19 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, metals, nutrients, chemical oxygen demand (COD), and oil and grease in water. The sampling sites were the following:

- Tucker Bayou at 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 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 contractor. The TCEQ used the PCLs listed in the tables below to assess the surface water quality data.

The TCEQ assessed the following 9 most concerning constituents with known PCLs:

- Xylenes, Total
- Pyrene
- Anthracene
- Benzene
- Ethylbenzene
- Phenanthrene
- Toluene
- Fluoranthene
- 2-Methylnaphthalene

These constituents were analyzed but were not detected (not detected above the method detection limit or quantitation limit) at the Upstream Tucker Bayou Site. Two constituents were detected above the method detection limit or quantitation limit at the Tucker Bayou at Buffalo Bayou Outside of Containment Boom site. However, results for both constituents were below their known PCL.