



News Release – December 9, 2005

U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

Statement of CSB Chairman Carolyn W. Merritt on BP's Final Texas City Refinery Explosion Report

“I commend BP for making its final report public, for cooperating with the CSB’s independent investigation, and for pledging corrective actions in the aftermath of this tragedy. BP’s report is a sober look in the mirror that reveals an ineffective safety culture at the Texas City refinery. I urge the company to draw upon this report and enact any needed changes not just in Texas City but at all BP facilities worldwide. The CSB plans to request an update from BP on its implementation of the report’s recommendations over the next few months.

“Last week, CSB investigators met with BP staff to discuss the issues BP raised following our release of preliminary findings on October 27. This Wednesday, we received a copy of BP’s final report and we will be carefully reviewing it over the next several weeks. We also take note of BP’s public release of its new portable structure siting policy, which we hope will contribute to an industry-wide discussion of the risk of trailers in petrochemical plants.”

Notes to Reporters:

- On August 17, 2005, the CSB issued [an urgent safety recommendation to BP](#) to establish an independent panel to examine the corporate oversight and safety culture of all five of BP’s North America refineries. BP accepted the recommendation and the first meeting of the panel, which is chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III, was held on November 10.
- On October 25, 2005, the CSB issued an [urgent safety recommendation to the American Petroleum Institute \(API\)](#) to develop a new industry guideline to protect trailer occupants from fire and explosion hazards at petrochemical sites. On November 15, the CSB presented information from its Texas City investigation before a meeting of an API committee that will develop the new guideline.
- On October 27, 2005, the CSB issued its preliminary findings concerning the March 23 explosion at a public meeting in Texas City. The CSB identified [six key safety issues](#) underlying the accident.

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. The CSB has been investigating the accident in Texas City since March 24, 2005. For more information, please contact Daniel Horowitz at (202) 261-7613 / (202) 441-6074 or Sandy Gilmour at (202) 261-7614 / (202) 251-5496.