

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
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<http://oversight.house.gov>

February 6, 2020

Mr. Gary R. Heminger
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Marathon Petroleum Corporation
539 S. Main Street
Findlay, OH 45840

Dear Mr. Heminger:

We request information regarding toxic chemical leaks that occurred at a Detroit facility owned by Marathon Petroleum Corporation and have caused serious concerns for residents living in surrounding communities. The most recent leak incident at the Detroit facility occurred on September 12, 2019. This incident was serious enough to cause the hospitalization of two refinery workers.¹

Unfortunately, this is only one of the latest incidents at the Detroit facility. In February 2019, Detroit residents “smelled a gas odor that was permeating from a Marathon Petroleum refinery.”² In addition, in October 2019, air monitors were deployed after a fire at the facility.³

These chemical leaks have alarmed members of the Detroit community. On September 16, 2019, the Subcommittee on Environment held a field hearing in Detroit to examine air and water quality in Michigan and how communities near the Marathon Refinery in Detroit are affected by chemical leaks.

At this hearing, local residents testified about serious concerns regarding operations of the nearby Marathon Refinery and the negative health effects associated with Marathon’s ongoing operations and release incidents. For example, Emma Lockridge, a resident of Detroit and a local advocate, testified at the hearing that Marathon’s Detroit facility “has been cited by the State of Michigan at least 13 times in the past six years for violations of its air permit and the Clean Air Act.” Ms. Lockridge also recounted her experiences of living near your facility:

¹ *Two Hospitalized After Vapor Leak at Marathon Refinery*, Curbed Detroit (Sept. 13, 2019) (online at <https://detroit.curbed.com/2019/9/13/20864846/marathon-refinery-detroit-southwest-vapor-leak>).

² *City of Detroit: Possible Odor Emission Due to Marathon Repair Work, Residents Advised to Stay Indoors*, WXYZ Detroit (Feb. 8, 2019) (online at www.wxyz.com/news/city-of-detroit-possible-odor-emission-due-to-marathon-repair-work-residents-advised-to-stay-indoors).

³ *Air Monitoring Deployed After Small Fire at Marathon Refinery*, WXYZ Detroit (Oct. 28, 2019) (online at www.wxyz.com/news/air-monitoring-deployed-after-small-fire-at-marathon-refinery).

I want you just to imagine, if you will, being asleep at 3:30 in the morning, and all of a sudden you start coughing, you get choked. And then your own coughing wakes you up, and you don't have a cold. And then your nose alerts you to the fact that there are chemicals in your bedroom, and you can't breathe, and they smell toxic, and they are choking you. These are the emissions that we have experienced as an ongoing presence in our homes from Marathon Petroleum Corporation over the years.⁴

During a tour of the community near the Detroit facility, local residents also told the Subcommittee members that Marathon does not inform residents of the community about the chemicals released after an incident. If true, this is highly concerning to the Subcommittee since we believe it is important for residents of Detroit to be aware of any particulate matter and/or vapor release that can affect their health.

As a result of the foregoing, we request the following information by February 14, 2020:

1. A complete list of all chemical leaks that have occurred at Marathon's Detroit facility in the last 10 years, including the dates of the leaks, the names of the chemicals released, the amounts of chemicals released, and the potential flammability of the chemicals released;
2. A complete list of mitigation measures taken by Marathon to prevent the release of particulate matter and/or vapor releases in the last 10 years;
3. A complete list of corrective actions taken after each leak, including efforts taken by Marathon to notify community members; and
4. A list of employees who were hospitalized and/or had to take days off as a result of each leak as well as a copy of any job hazard analysis completed in the unit before the leak occurred.

The Subcommittee also requests Marathon brief Subcommittee staff by February 21, 2020, regarding the actions that led to the September 12, 2019, chemical leak, Marathon's response to the leak, and steps taken to remediate the issue.

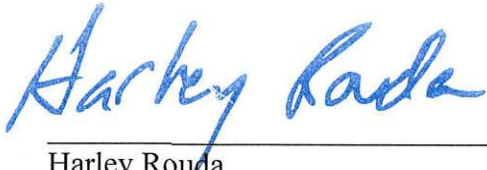
The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principle oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X.

If you have any questions, please call Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

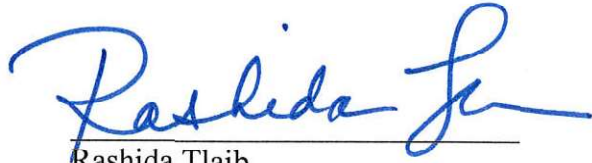
⁴ Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Hearing on Environmental Injustice: Exploring Inequities in Air and Water Quality in Michigan* (Sept. 16, 2019) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/environmental-injustice-exploring-inequities-in-air-and-water-quality-in>).

Mr. Gary R. Heminger
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Sincerely,



Harley Rouda
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment



Rashida Tlaib
Vice Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Environment

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment