

Tacoma People Have Access Rights: Read the Planning Plans: How to Mitigate Community Industrial Accidents

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Abstract

First, just a quick review: The *Community Right-to-Know Act* gives what knowledge to our Tacoma Washington community (people) and when do they get this knowledge information?

On the other hand, what comes first in Tacoma, public (community) right-to-know hazards -Vs- methane-to-methanol industry producing?

Because, Tacoma City and Port of Tacoma considering environmental impacts *methane-to-methanol* process plant; therefore, we c o m m u n i t y (people) have the right to read the hazard(s) analysis documents written, as related to this process, the plant, the location, and affects just who and how?

In this case, let's just re-visit the *Community Right-to-Know Act* as I interpret what it says we Tacoma community people are entitled to know by rule.

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1 When public informed about hazards?

While, We Tacoma citizens (people) are given an opportunity to express our concerns or issues, we think about, that will influence the *methane-to-methanol* environmental study that has yet to be studied.

2 Community Right-to-Know Act

I find this *Community Right-to-Know Act* or *The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)* (collectively, “ACT”), is clear towards its intended Act community result; *on the other hand*, this ACT has two problem issues:

- Issue: 1. Which comes first in Tacoma, public (community) right-to-know hazards -Vs- *methane-to-methanol* industrial plant producing?
- Issue: 2. Permits granted for *methane-to-methanol* plant before the ACT has created and published all the Act analysis public available reading documents.

2.1 Consequence

A significant factor, this ACT applied to *methane-to-methanol*—plant planning, construction, start-up, and on-line operation—has placed the cart before the horse; because things have been permitted to begin absent community ACT documents published before the first permit was ever issued for this *methane-to-methanol* project.

Community (people) need these *methane-to-methanol* ACT documents before public comments are received related to this specific *methane-to-methanol* plant.

Seems like, Public input regarding the *methane-to-methanol* plant will be irrelevant and absent any supportive fact information for oversight decision-makers anywhere.

3 We the public requesting the ‘know’ now

Right to Know

Section 324 directs EPA, governors, SERCs, and LEPCs to make emergency response plans, MSDSs, lists of chemicals, inventory forms, toxic chemical release forms, and follow-up emergency notices available to the general public.¹

3.1 Federal ACT rules

One could say, ACT requires “emergency planning” by government(s) with information available for our knowledge assessment.²

[C]reated to help communities plan for emergencies involving hazardous substances. EPCRA requires hazardous chemical emergency planning by federal, state and local governments, Indian tribes, and industry. It also requires industry to report on the storage, use and releases of hazardous chemicals to federal, state, and local governments.³

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¹Schierow, Linda-Jo., *The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA): A Summary*, (§ *Right to Know* at 4), (Apr. 5, 2012) online at <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL32683.pdf> (visited Jan. 17, 2016).

²Washington State Ecology, *EPCRA - What Is EPCRA?* (2016) online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/epcra/whatis.html>; *See generally*, *42 U.S. Code Chapter 116 - EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW*, (US Law : LII : Legal Information Institute) (2016) online at <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/chapter-116> (visited Jan. 17, 2016).

³US EPA, OSWER. 2016. *Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)*, (2016) (collections and lists) online at <http://www.epa.gov/epcra> (visited Jan. 17, 2016).