



Region 6 - Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division
INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Date(s):	04/14/22	
Media Program:	Air	
Regulatory Program(s)	Title V	
Company Name:	Westlake Chemical	
Facility Name:	Lake Charles North, Axiall	
Facility Physical Location:	1600 VCM Plant Rd	
(city, state, zip code)	Westlake, LA 70669	
Mailing address:	1600 VCM Plant Rd	
(city, state, zip code)	Westlake, LA 70669	
County/Parish:	Calcasieu Parish	
Facility Phone Number	337-708-4688	
Facility Contact:	Paula McCain	Environmental Manager
	pmccain@westlake.com	
FRS Number:	110070228618	
Identification/Permit Number:	0520-00012-V7	
Media Identifier Number:	LA0000002201900012	
NAICS:	325110	
SIC:	2869	
Personnel participating in inspection:		
Nicholas Bobbs	EPA/OECA/OCE/AED	Inspector
Richard Helmich	EPA/OECA/OCEFT/NEIC	Chemist
Agustin Martinez	EPA/OECA/OCEFT/NEIC	Technician
Ali Gitipour	EPA/ORD/CEMM/AMCD	Physical Scientist
Justin Chen	EPA/R6/ECAD/AEB	Inspector
Marcie Sharpe	LDEQ/OEC/SD	Inspector
Paula McCain	Westlake Chemical	Environmental Manager
Bob Craft	Westlake Chemical	Production Engineer
Sarah Donahe	Westlake Chemical	Production Supervisor
EPA Lead Inspector Signature/Date	NICHOLAS BOBBS <small>Digitally signed by NICHOLAS BOBBS Date: 2022.07.08 15:36:31 -04'00'</small>	
	{Inspector name}	Date
Supervisor Signature/Date	JAMES LEATHERS <small>Digitally signed by JAMES LEATHERS Date: 2022.07.08 15:22:29 -05'00'</small>	
	{Supervisor name}	Date

Section I – INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE INSPECTION

EPA inspectors Justin Chen, Richard Helmich, Agustin Martinez, Ali Gitipour, and I, Nicholas Bobbs, and LDEQ inspector Marcie Sharpe (“We”, “Us”) arrived at Westlake Chemical / Lake Charles North (the “Facility”, the “Site”, or “WLCN”) at 8:00 AM on April 14, 2022 for an unannounced Clean Air Act (“CAA”) inspection. We met with Paula McCain, Environmental Manager, Bob Craft, Production Engineer, and Sarah Donahe, Production Supervisor. I presented my credentials to Mrs. McCain and informed her that this was an EPA inspection to determine compliance with the facility’s Title V Air Permit and the Clean Air Act. The scope of the inspection is a partial compliance evaluation (“PCE”) including a survey of the facility using the Geospatial Measurement of Air Pollutants (“GMAP”) Vehicle. This inspection occurred as part of the Administrator’s Multi-Scale Monitoring Project called the Pollution Accountability Team (PAT).

FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The Lake Charles North facility is a Vinyl Chloride Monomer (“VCM”) manufacturing facility owned and operated by Westlake Chemical but permitted under the name of prior owner Axiall, LLC. The facility is located in a dense industrial area between two other facilities.

Section II – OBSERVATIONS

The GMAP surveyed the entire facility. The complete GMAP data can be found in the report for the April 2022 GMAP project.

The GMAP detected high levels of methane near the area of the plant containing the thermal oxidizers. Mr. Chen and I used FLIR cameras to identify the source of the methane to be leaks in the fuel gas lines for the thermal oxidizers. I recorded two videos using the FLIR GF320 at approximately 9:20 AM. I recorded video MOV_0159 of a methane leak from the fuel gas line to ‘I-901A’. I also recorded video MOV_0160 of a methane leak from a red valve labelled ‘PT-926BA’. We identified which components were leaking to the facility personnel.

Mr. Chen and I observed the loading of VCM into a railcar using the FLIR cameras. We did not identify any leaks or fugitive emissions.

Section III – AREAS OF CONCERN

EPA inspectors Justin Chen, Richard Helmich, Agustin Martinez, Ali Gitipour, and I, Nicholas Bobbs, and LDEQ inspector Marcie Sharpe conducted a closing conference at Westlake Chemical/Lake Charles North at 10:15 AM on 04/14/2022 for the inspection. During the closing conference, I reviewed the 1 Areas of Concern noted during the inspection.

AOC 1 – Elevated methane concentrations due to leaks in thermal oxidizer fuel gas lines

The GMAP detected elevated methane concentrations downwind of the thermal oxidizers. We observed leaking components in the fuel gas lines for the thermal oxidizers using OGI. We identified the leaking components to facility personnel, and they began taking action to fix the leaks.

Section IV – FOLLOW UP

No additional information was received by EPA after exiting the Facility on 04/14/2022.

Section V – LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Video Log – 2 FLIR videos taken 04/14/22

Appendix 1

Video Log



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Video Log

Location: West Lake Chemical North Axiall		
City: Westlake	Calcasieu Parish	State: Louisiana



File Name: MOV_159.mp4
Date taken: 04/14/2022
Time taken: 9:20 pm
Videographer: Nicolas Bobbs
Description: OGI video of emissions from a methane leak from the fuel gas line to 'I-901A'



File Name: MOV_160.mp4
Date taken: 04/14/2022
Time taken: 9:20 pm
Videographer: Nicholas Bobbs
Description: OGI video of emissions from a methane leak from a red valve labelled 'PT-926BA'