

Findings on IMTT/ Shell and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's air sampling in St. Rose

1. It is hard to get the results of the sampling that they conducted

The Louisiana Bucket Brigade had to file a public records request with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) to get this information. What ordinary person knows how to do that?

The information that was provided was only for nine days of sampling, from June 11th – 20th.

2. Two types of sampling were conducted

- a. **Grab samples** (samples that grab air for a few minutes): These were taken by both Shell / IMTT and LDEQ from June 11th to June 19th. Out of 37 samples taken, 30 were taken on site at Shell / IMTT and seven were taken in the neighborhood.

What's good about this sampling: The equipment has low detection limits at the levels of parts per billion (rather than parts per million). This means that the detection limits can detect chemicals at levels that harm human health.

What's bad about this sampling: Only seven samples were taken in the neighborhood. Each sample is about five minutes, meaning that we have information about 35 minutes of information about air quality.

No samples were taken on the streets (Crespo – First) right next to the plant.

High readings are noted with an asterisk* that says the equipment is not calibrated for such readings.

Chemical with high concentrations in Grab Samples	Health Effects
Acetone	irritation of eyes, nose, throat and lungs; drowsiness, dizziness
Methylene Chloride	dizziness, nausea, numbness of fingers and toes; long term exposure may cause cancer
Xylene	headaches, lack of muscle coordination, dizziness, confusion, irritation of skin, eyes, nose, or throat, difficulty breathing, stomach discomfort, changes in liver and kidneys
Benzene	drowsiness, dizziness, rapid heart rate, headaches, confusion, vomiting; long-term exposure is linked to leukemia
Carbon Disulfide	high levels impact the central nervous system; can impact normal functions of the brain, liver and heart

b. Mobile Air Monitoring Lab: This was parked on Riverwood near Airline for a few hours, then moved to Normandy Drive in Preston Hollow from 5 pm on June 12th to 11 am on June 20th.

Good: Monitored 24 hours a day for most days. Though there were periods when the lab wasn't working, in general it was operating 24 hours a day and that is very good.

Bad: Detection limits for many of the chemicals are too high, in parts per million
Averages the results
Lumps (does not speciate) an entire category of chemicals so you can't get specifics on what was in the air.

Results of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Mobile Monitoring

Hydrogen Sulfide was detected by the Mobile Air Monitoring Lab on Normandy Drive from June 12th – 19th	
Average detected in the neighborhood	1.6 parts per billion
Range detected in the neighborhood during the course of the monitoring	0 to 5 parts per billion
Environmental Protection Agency Screening Level	1.4 to 1.8 parts per billion

