



Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

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JB Pritzker, Governor

James Jennings, Director

June 17, 2026

Dear Congressman Garcia,

Thank you for your communication dated May 31, 2026, regarding the fire at Koppers, Inc., on May 27, 2026. Please know that immediately following the fire, the Illinois EPA initiated an investigation, and Agency field engineers inspected the site to determine any potential air, land, or water impacts. While the investigation is ongoing, to date, available information obtained confirms that the fire was limited to Tank 31, which had a capacity of 109,000 gallons. At the time of the fire, the tank held approximately 16,600 gallons of petroleum distillate. The fire at the tank began shortly after 6 p.m. and lasted approximately 34 minutes. The contents of the tank were consumed by the fire.

The Stickney Fire Department's response included the use of water and non-PFAS foam to combat the fire, the runoff from which was contained at the site. The tank was removed from service after the fire and will not be replaced. The root cause of the fire remains under investigation by Koppers and a third-party consultant, with findings to be shared with Illinois EPA.

Based on all current information, including the nature of the tank's contents, reports from first responders, and air monitoring conducted during the fire, Illinois EPA's assessment is that impacts from the fire were limited. There were no injuries associated with the incident. Further, the Stickney Fire Department, working with hazardous materials teams, concluded that there was no danger to nearby residents because the fire was confined to Tank 31 and of limited duration, with winds blowing away from nearby residential areas. Moreover, both the first response team and Koppers concluded that no hazardous air quality existed proximate to the fire based on monitoring data collected from the site and surrounding area during the incident. That data was collected using a Draeger 4-gas monitor, a handheld, portable safety device used to continuously measure and detect gases. Carbon monoxide measured 10 ppm, while methane and hydrogen sulfide measured 0.

Based on information available to the Illinois EPA, all operations at the site will cease by the end of this calendar year. The Illinois EPA has made multiple enforcement referrals to the Illinois Attorney General's Office concerning Koppers' operations. Information concerning these referrals is available at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/community-relations/sites/koppers.html>. The Illinois EPA, in concert

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with the Illinois Attorney General's Office, will monitor the investigation into the cause of the recent fire, and will ensure that pending enforcement matters are timely and appropriately brought to closure.

To ensure transparency and public awareness of the matter, a copy of this letter has been posted to the Illinois EPA's website referenced above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JJ' or 'Jennings', written in a cursive style.

James Jennings
Director

State Senator Celina Villanueva
State Senator Javier Loera Cervantes
Representative Aaron Ortiz
Representative Edgar Gonzalez, Jr
Commissioner Alma E. Anaya
Commissioner Eira L. Corral Sepulveda
Alderman Michael D. Rodriguez