

Winter Storms Uri and Viola
EPA Report #24
March 13, 2021

INCIDENT OVERVIEW

Beginning February 14, 2021, Winter Storms Uri and Viola brought dangerous cold/freezing rain/snow throughout much of the state of Texas with life-threatening wind-chill temperatures and hazardous travel conditions from ice and snow. Due to the storms, many drinking water facilities across the state lost power or pressure and many petrochemical facilities shut down. EPA is working with federal and state partners to respond to the impacts of these storms.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- As of March 13, 2021, EPA has received a total of 162 National Response Center (NRC) reports in EPA's Area of Responsibility (AOR) related to Winter Storms Uri and Viola, of these 114 are air releases. None have required EPA response actions beyond assessments by the Phone-Duty Officer.
- The draft ASPECT report for March 12, 2021, was provided to Ms. Wilma Subra, former EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council member, for review to help ensure content and results would be clear and understandable to the general public and potentially impacted communities.
- EPA's mission assignments have been completed with ASPECT's flight on March 12, 2021. The RRCC staffing mission assignment was completed on February 25, 2021 and the State of Texas demobilized the Mobile Drinking Water Laboratories on February 28, 2021. Any further reporting for this incident will be through the Weekly Activity Reports.

AIR MONITORING

- On March 12, 2021, ASPECT, in support of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), flew over the Corpus Christi/Port Lavaca area. Additional flights were not made due to the weather pattern along the Gulf Coast. Results were compared to the list of TCEQ short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs were found.
- Maps and the ASPECT reports for March 12, 2021 were finalized and made public. They can be found at <https://response.epa.gov/UriandViola>.