

Response to: Concerned Citizens of Mossville, University of Utah Environmental Justice Clinic and the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic

In this dialogue and in many conversations about the Voluntary Property Purchase Program over many years, Sasol has been clear.

The reason we opened this program was because our neighbors asked us to. The properties we purchased remain unused today. Sasol's existing site footprint includes over 1,000 acres of unused, develop-ready land. We do not need the Mossville properties for existing or future development.

The reason the program was voluntary was because we wanted to give residents choices, the choices they asked for. Those who chose to participate in the program did. Those who chose not to participate did not have to participate, and they still live there today.

Sasol remains open to dialogue with our neighbors and participates in regular dialogue with many community members through our Community Advisory Panel, public briefings to local government bodies such as the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury and other local organizations in which our employees are members. Our Community Information Line phone number is published on our website and available to anyone who has a question or wants to set up a conversation or meeting with Sasol. While we have heard from out of state organizations and non-local special interest groups about the VPPP, we have not received any phone calls or outreach from Mossville residents regarding the program in more than three years.

We welcome conversation and are committed to listening to concerns, answering questions and working together to meet the needs of the community. However, Sasol stands by the parameters of the VPPP that were not only fair but went above and beyond compensation for voluntary property purchase programs.

While Concerned Citizens of Mossville, University of Utah Environmental Justice Clinic and the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic cite "in-depth interviews" with former Mossville residents from 32 households, in which 22 were unsatisfied,¹ **there were 584 property owners who participated in the VPPP.** All participants, including the 22 cited in the rejoinder, had the option not to participate.

Contrary to this group's assertion, local residents were made aware of the project before a final decision was made. Sasol introduced the VPPP long before permits were received and before a final investment decision was made by the company in 2014 (see [agenda from a Calcasieu Parish Police Jury meeting](#) citing the information center that Sasol established for residents interested in the VPPP.) Residents also had opportunities to provide formal public comments during the state and federal permitting process. These opportunities, stewarded by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, are designed precisely to obtain input from residents near a proposed facility.

Our previous response corrected their assertion that residents knew nothing about the project until it was a done deal. A correct statement would have been that Sasol did not notify Mossville (or any other) residents outside of public officials until after a public announcement was made. As any individual familiar with SEC guidelines knows a publicly traded company has specific requirements around when and how it can share details related to the disclosure of material

¹ University Network for Human Rights, "They didn't pay us for our Memories," p. 5

information. To ask Sasol to step outside of this process and inform the public before proper disclosures were filed would have been asking us to defy our regulators. The public officials who were aware of the project were notified under signed confidentiality agreements, which they execute regularly in their normal course of business.

The group continues to attempt to speak for Sasol about when the company made a final investment decision. Simply put, a final investment decision was not and could not have been made until permits were obtained and the investment was secured. This decision is well-documented in [SEC filings made in 2014](#). While the project announcement occurred in December 2012, construction did not begin until 2015, once the final investment decision had been made. It is during that time between December 2012 and early 2013 that Mossville residents reached out to Sasol about a property purchase program. Sasol answered their request; a public open house was held and public comment opportunities through the LDEQ permitting process were made available.

Finally, regarding the EPA's RSEI database, Sasol is challenging the use of the EPA data in Environmental Integrity Project's "Breath to the People" report – not the EPA data itself. Again, the EPA explicitly states that you cannot make assumptions based on RSEI, and that "all RSEI results should be followed up with additional analysis before drawing conclusions or making decisions about the potential risk posed to any particular population." The Environmental Integrity Project report authors use the data in exactly the way the report advised not to. Understanding how to interpret data – whether from the EPA related to emissions or from home appraisals related to our VPPP – is an important component of producing credible findings.

Sasol complies with all state and federal regulations at a minimum and in many cases, we operate well below our permitted emission allowances. This is due to our investment in best available emission control technology and striving to minimize emissions every day. Our combined permit limit for both of Sasol's Lake Charles units that emit EO is 16.856 tons per year. As noted in the rebuttal, **our 2020 EO emissions totaled just 2.35 tons – well below the permitted amount.**

Regarding the 2018 updated National Air Toxics Assessment, the respondents conveniently leave out the fact that NATA is a screening level tool. EPA cautions that its modeling of estimated risks is very conservative. EPA uses a general 100 in 1 million (1 in 10,000) increased risk of cancer as a guideline for further investigation, which assumes a continuous, 24 hours per day inhalation exposure to hazardous pollutants, including ethylene oxide, for a lifetime of 70 years. Further, the EPA's results based on 2018 data show the estimated maximum individual cancer risk decreased 64 percent from the previous NATA risk estimate based on 2014 data. A quick glance at EPA's AirToxScreen Mapping Tool shows that the census tract that includes Mossville does not have a higher estimated cancer risk compared with that of the entire state.

Sasol's ethylene oxide emissions reporting, including the facts behind the 2018 updates, is [well-documented](#). In 2019, when Sasol engaged LDEQ on the issue of ethylene oxide emissions, we committed to reviewing our historical emissions data to ensure accuracy. As part of that process, we hired an outside professional testing company to evaluate the performance of a vapor combustion unit (VCU), which is part of our ethylene oxide emissions control system. The performance test confirmed that the vapor combustion unit is even more efficient than we originally estimated. The test results demonstrated that the destruction efficiency was 99.9 percent, rather than the 98 percent we had previously used in our emissions calculations submitted to LDEQ. This led to us significantly overreporting our ethylene oxide emissions. For

example, for one point source, the test showed we actually emitted 0.378 tons in 2017, over 90 percent less than the 7.55 tons we reported to the agency for 2017. Since that time, we submitted the results of this study to LDEQ and they worked with us to update our emissions data retroactively based on the new data. It's important to note that emissions are directly tied to production rates, which vary from year to year, and could result in an increase or decrease in emissions. All of this information was submitted to the LDEQ; you can find it [here](#). Additionally, you can find EPA's technical review of Sasol's Lake Charles Chemical Complex [here](#). It acknowledges EPA's validation of our testing methodology and future actions planned to further reduce EO emissions.

Sasol appreciates the Business Human Rights Resource Center's facilitation of this discussion. We have provided the facts, along with several clarifications regarding the Concerned Citizens of Mossville, University of Utah Environmental Justice Clinic and the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic's misrepresentations about Sasol's community outreach and operations. We remain open to further conversation with residents in our community.