



J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr.

Parish President
Iberville Parish Council

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TO: Residents of North Plaquemine & Surrounding Area

FROM: J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr.
Parish President

RE: Olin Chlorine Release on April 18, 2022

On Monday, April 18, 2022, the Iberville Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness was notified that Chlorine was being released from the Olin facility located in North Plaquemine. The Parish emergency notification system was activated to notify the public in the involved area to “shelter in place”. The “shelter in place” order was lifted after Olin officials notified the emergency response officials on scene that the “shelter in place” order was no longer necessary.

At the request of DEQ Secretary Chuck Brown, I met with DEQ and Louisiana State Police staff on July 25th to discuss the Chlorine release from the Olin facility. At this meeting, I was informed that the levels of Chlorine at the time Olin advised that the “shelter in place” could be lifted were not accurately reported to the Parish and other emergency agencies on scene. In fact, the Chlorine levels in the monitoring area were higher than the level reported by Olin. I was told by DEQ and State Police that the “shelter in place” order should have remained in effect for 34.5 hours. I will not tolerate reporting of inaccurate information by Olin during an emergency.

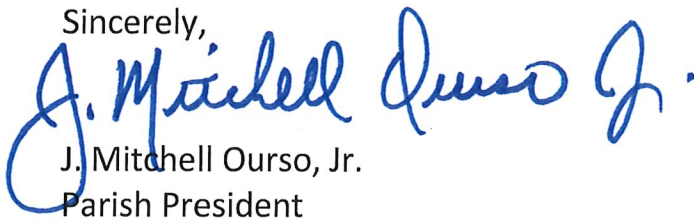
My duty as Parish President is to notify residents of chemical releases is very important. The false reporting of Chlorine levels by Olin personnel is of grave concern to me. Chlorine is a very toxic chemical that can cause serious injury to our residents in the vicinity of the leak.

The Parish will continue to assist DEQ and State Police during their continuing investigation of the Chlorine leak at Olin. It is my position that the false reporting of Chlorine levels by Olin officials is a serious breach of public trust. Iberville Parish residents have the right to accurate and truthful information to be reported during any chemical release. The health, safety and welfare of Iberville Parish residents is the most important function of the Office of Parish President. I am obligated to notify you of the inaccurate information provided by Olin during this Chlorine leak. I expect DEQ and State Police to conduct a full investigation of Olin's actions related to this dangerous Chlorine leak and impose any penalty that may be appropriate. The Parish must be provided with accurate and truthful information related to any chemical leak so that the proper safety precautions can be implemented for residents' health and safety.

If you have any comments or concerns related to this incident, please to not hesitate to contact me.

As always, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a trailing flourish.

J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr.
Parish President

C: John Marque, Jr.

Director of Fire & Emergency Operations

Clint Moore

Director, Office of Emergency Preparedness