



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

May 4, 2022

OFFICE OF
LAND AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

Ms. Jackie Medcalf
Founder and Executive Director
Texas Health & Environment Alliance
3262 Westheimer Road, #142
Houston, Texas 77098

Dear Ms. Medcalf:

Thank you for your letter of April 8, 2022, regarding the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) comments and recommendations on the draft waste permit and compliance plan for the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) site in Houston's Fifth Ward/Kashmere Gardens. Thank you also for inviting our Regional staff to participate in the THEA/Impact Fifth Ward community meeting on April 19, 2022. It was a valuable opportunity to share information with the community and to hear their concerns. We appreciate your suggestions for strengthening the comments regarding community involvement and transparency. Consistent with these suggestions, EPA has shared your letter with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

EPA will continue coordinating with TCEQ to ensure that the community's concerns are addressed, and we encourage you to share your suggestions directly with TCEQ. As the primary regulatory authority for the UPRR Houston Wood Preserving Works site, TCEQ is currently taking comments on the draft permit for cleanup of the site through May 10, 2022.

We appreciate your commitment to the community and the time you have taken to review the UPRR Houston Wood Preserving Works draft permit, including providing suggestions and recommendations. We will continue to monitor communications with the community as the permit moves through the approval process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry N. Breen", is written over a horizontal line.

Barry N. Breen
Acting Assistant Administrator