

Councilmember Willard-Lewis  
Alerts District "E" Residents  
Of Non-Toxic Chemical Release from Dow Chemical Plant

Community Announcement

July 7, 2009

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New Orleans  
City Council

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New Orleans, LA - July 7, 2009 - District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis is alerting District "E" residents that the odor permeating the air this morning is a result of a release of ethyl acrylate at the Dow Chemical Plant in Hahnville. According to Dow officials, the chemical is not dangerous at the levels released.

The St. Charles Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness indicates that although very pungent, the smell is non-toxic to people and animals. The chemical may cause effects if inhaled or absorbed through skin, and it can irritate or burn the skin and eyes. Some people may experience headaches, dizziness and vomiting.

Dow informed St. Charles Parish officials that a crack had developed along a seam in a tank at the plant, which released the odor at about 6:40 a.m. this morning.

The current weather conditions have kept the release from dissipating as quickly as possible and the odor may last for some time today. The strong, chemical smell is being reported across the metro area, from St. Charles Parish to Metairie to New Orleans. St. Charles parish is working with Dow Chemical to remedy the situation.

**New Orleans City Council**

The New Orleans City Council is the legislative branch of New Orleans city government. The Council considers and enacts all local laws that govern the City of New Orleans. The Council also approves the operating and capital budgets for the City, as recommended by the mayor, and continually monitors revenues and expenditures for local government operations. The City Council

is also the regulatory body for public utilities. It also reviews and has final say on many land use and zoning matters, as well as considers major economic development projects for the City. As a Board of Review for Orleans Parish, the Council examines appeals of property tax assessments for real estate taxes, and certifies tax rolls to the Louisiana Tax Commission. Other responsibilities of the Council include overseeing the operation of the public access television in Orleans Parish.

The City Council is comprised of five districts and two councilmembers-at-large. Council President and Councilmember-at-Large Arnie Fielkow; Council Vice-President and Councilmember-at-Large Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson; District "A" Councilmember Shelley Midura; District "B" Councilmember Stacy S. Head; District "C" Councilmember James Carter; District "D" Councilmember Cynthia Hedge-Morrell; and District "E" Councilmember Cynthia Willard-Lewis.