FORMOSA:
The Facts

NOT JUST ANOTHER PLANT

FG LA LLC (Formosa), which is part of a Taiwanese conglomerate, is not just another chemical plant moving into St. James. This massive petrochemical complex would be comprised of 14 new plants. The complex would permanently change the landscape of St. James and add to the already toxic air that residents breathe. And for what? Among other things, Formosa would manufacture and supply plastic resins and petrochemicals to make throwaway plastics like shopping bags and plastic cups.

APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE FROM A SCHOOL

The proposed 14-plant Formosa complex would operate approximately one mile from Fifth District Elementary school. The 2,400 acre site is also next to Mosaic and AmSty, which together emitted 274 tons of toxic chemicals in 2017, according to TRI data. Formosa would add thousands of tons of pollutants into the air, affecting all of St. James Parish residents. These pollutants include, among other things, cancer-causing compounds, particulates, and nitrogen oxides.

AIR PERMITS FOR POLLUTION

Formosa’s petrochemical complex was approved by the St. James Parish Council. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) recently approved the Formosa’s air permit application and the Environmental Assessment Statement for all 14 plants, along with reviewing the 2017 EPA Toxic Release Inventory.
15,000 submitted comments opposing these permits. This is what LDEQ would allow Formosa to emit into the air every year:

- **7.70 tons of ethylene oxide**, which EPA considers a **carcinogen** that is linked to breast cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and lymphocytic leukemia.\(^3\) One study concluded that exposure to ethylene oxide during pregnancy was associated with increased risk of spontaneous abortion and pregnancy.\(^4\) Only one other facility in Louisiana (Sasol Chemicals) reported that it emitted more than 7.70 tons of ethylene oxide in 2017.\(^5\)
- **36.58 tons of benzene**, a dangerous **carcinogen**. Again, only one other facility in Louisiana (Shell Norco Chemicals) reported that it emitted more than 36.58 tons of Benzene in 2017.\(^6\)
- **13 million tons of CO2e** (greenhouse gas emissions expressed in CO2 equivalents).
- **1,243 tons of nitrogen oxides**, known to cause and worsen respiratory illnesses.
- **2,750 tons of carbon monoxide**, known to exacerbate heart conditions.

### A CRIMINAL RECORD

In June of 2019, a Texas Judge declared Formosa a **“serial offender.”**\(^7\) In October, Formosa agreed to pay $50 million to settle the Clean Water Act suit filed by Texas residents.\(^8\)

The Formosa Plastics Plant in Baton Rouge has been in violation of the **Clean Air Act every quarter since 2009** and in violation of the **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act every quarter since 2004** according to the EPA.\(^9\)

In 2016, Formosa polluted 125 miles of Vietnam’s coastline. The toxic waste killed over 100 tons of fish and destroyed the economies of four coastal provinces.\(^10\)

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**There is still time to stop Formosa.**

Months before the St. James Parish Council approved Formosa’s land use application, Formosa told the Parish that it had revised its plot plan to create more of a buffer between St. Louis Academy Elementary and a church.\(^11\)

Formosa has not revised its plot plan and knowingly misled the council before they voted to approve Formosa’s land use permits.

**CALL YOUR COUNCILMEMBER & TELL THEM YOUR CONCERNS**

- **Alvin St. Pierre**, District 1: (225) 806-0702
- **Jason Amato**, District 2: (225) 268-6902
- **Ryan Louque**, District 3: (225) 206-2285
- **Mason Bland**, District 4: (225) 623-6115
- **Clyde Cooper**, District 5: (225) 806-4996
- **Vondra Etienne-Steib**, District 6: (225) 206-2453
- **Donald Nash**, District 7: (225) 916-6392

**TELL PRESIDENT BIDEN TO STOP FORMOSA**

As the President of the United States and Commander in Chief, President Biden can direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to revoke Formosa Plastics’ federal permits. [Sign the petition.](#)

Join the RISE St. James Facebook page to get updates on Formosa. Email risestjames@gmail.com for more information.

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\(^3\) EPA, Evaluation of the Inhalation Carcinogenicity of Ethylene Oxide, Dec. 2016


\(^5\) 2017 EPA Toxic Release Inventory

\(^6\) 2017 EPA Toxic Release Inventory


\(^9\) EPA, Enforcement & Compliance History Online, Detailed Facility Report, Accessed Sept. 17, 2018
