

**U.S. Department of Labor** Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
17625 El Camino Real  
Suite 400  
Houston, TX 77058



05/26/2020

TPC GROUP LLC  
2102 SPUR 136  
Port Neches, TX 77651

Dear Employer,

Enclosed you will find citations for violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (the Act) which may have accompanying proposed penalties. Also enclosed is a booklet entitled, "Employer Rights and Responsibilities Following a Federal OSHA Inspection", (OSHA 3000-04R) revised 2018, which explains your rights and responsibilities under the Act. If you have any questions about the enclosed citations and penalties, I would welcome further discussions in person or by telephone. Please contact me at 281-286-0583.

You will note on page 2 of the booklet that, for violations which you do not contest, you must (1) notify this office promptly by letter that you have taken appropriate corrective action within the time set forth on the citation; and (2) pay any penalties assessed. Please inform me of the abatement steps you have taken and of their dates together with adequate supporting documentation; e.g., drawings or photographs of corrected conditions, purchase/work orders related to abatement actions, air sampling results. This information will allow us to close the case.

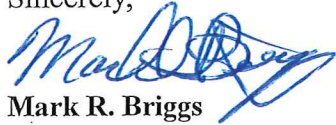
As indicated on page 3 of the booklet, you may request an informal conference with me during the 15-working-day notice of contest period. During such an informal conference you may present any evidence or views which you believe would support an adjustment to the citation or the penalty.

If you are considering a request for an informal conference to discuss any issues related to this Citation and Notification of Penalty, you must take care to schedule it early enough to allow time to contest after the informal conference, should you decide to do so. Please keep in mind that a written letter of intent to contest must be submitted to the Area Director within 15 working days of your receipt of the citation. The running of this contest period is not interrupted by an informal conference.

If you decide to request an informal conference, please complete the attached notice at the bottom of this letter and post it next to the Citations as soon as the time, date and the place of the informal conference have been determined. Be sure to bring to the conference with you any and all supporting documentation of existing conditions as well as of any abatement steps taken thus far. If conditions warrant, we can enter into an informal settlement agreement which amicably resolves this matter without litigation or contest.

You should be aware that OSHA publishes information on its inspection and citation activity on the Internet under the provisions of Electronic Freedom of Information Act. The information related to these alleged violations will be posted when our system indicates that you have received this citation. You are encouraged to review the information concerning your establishment at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov). If you have any dispute with the accuracy of the information displayed, please contact this office.

Sincerely,



**Mark R. Briggs**  
Area Director

Enclosures

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
17625 El Camino Real  
Suite 400  
Houston, TX 77058



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## Citation and Notification of Penalty

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**To:**  
TPC GROUP LLC  
and its successors  
2102 SPUR 136  
Port Neches, TX 77651

**Inspection Number:** 1448049  
**Inspection Date(s):** 11/27/2019 - 05/26/2020  
**Issuance Date:** 05/26/2020

**Inspection Site:**  
2102 SPUR 136  
Port Neches, TX 77651

*The violation(s) described in this Citation and Notification of Penalty is (are) alleged to have occurred on or about the day(s) the inspection was made unless otherwise indicated within the description given below.*

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This Citation and Notification of Penalty (this Citation) describes violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. The penalty(ies) listed herein is (are) based on these violations. You must abate the violations referred to in this Citation by the dates listed and pay the penalties proposed, unless within 15 working days (excluding weekends and Federal holidays) from your receipt of this Citation and Notification of Penalty **you either call to schedule an informal conference (see paragraph below) or** you mail a notice of contest to the U.S. Department of Labor Area Office at the address shown above. Please refer to the enclosed booklet (OSHA 3000) which outlines your rights and responsibilities and which should be read in conjunction with this form. Issuance of this Citation does not constitute a finding that a violation of the Act has occurred unless there is a failure to contest as provided for in the Act or, if contested, unless this Citation is affirmed by the Review Commission or a court.

**Posting** - The law requires that a copy of this Citation and Notification of Penalty be posted immediately in a prominent place at or near the location of the violation(s) cited herein, or, if it is not practicable because of the nature of the employer's operations, where it will be readily observable by all affected employees. This Citation must remain posted until the violation(s) cited herein has (have) been abated, or for 3 working days (excluding weekends and Federal holidays), whichever is longer.

**Informal Conference** - An informal conference is not required. However, if you wish to have such a conference you may request one with the Area Director during the 15 working day contest period by calling 281-286-0583. During such an informal conference you may present any evidence or views which you believe would support an adjustment to the citation(s) and/or penalty(ies).

If you are considering a request for an informal conference to discuss any issues related to this Citation and Notification of Penalty, you must take care to schedule it early enough to allow time to contest after the informal conference, should you decide to do so. Please keep in mind that a written letter of intent to contest must be submitted to the Area Director within 15 working days of your receipt of this Citation. The running of this contest period is not interrupted by an informal conference.

If you decide to request an informal conference, please complete, remove and post the Notice to Employees next to this Citation and Notification of Penalty as soon as the time, date, and place of the informal conference have been determined. Be sure to bring to the conference any and all supporting documentation of existing conditions as well as any abatement steps taken thus far. If conditions warrant, we can enter into an informal settlement agreement which amicably resolves this matter without litigation or contest.

**Right to Contest** – You have the right to contest this Citation and Notification of Penalty. You may contest all citation items or only individual items. You may also contest proposed penalties and/or abatement dates without contesting the underlying violations. **Unless you inform the Area Director in writing that you intend to contest the citation(s) and/or proposed penalty(ies) within 15 working days after receipt, the citation(s) and the proposed penalty(ies) will become a final order of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission and may not be reviewed by any court or agency.**

**Penalty Payment** – Penalties are due within 15 working days of receipt of this notification unless contested. (See the enclosed booklet and the additional information provided related to the Debt Collection Act of 1982.) Make your check or money order payable to “DOL-OSHA”. Please indicate the Inspection Number on the remittance. You can also make your payment electronically on [www.pay.gov](http://www.pay.gov). On the left side of the pay.gov homepage, you will see an option to Search Public Forms. Type “OSHA” and click Go. From the results, click on **OSHA Penalty Payment Form**. The direct link is:

<https://www.pay.gov/paygov/forms/formInstance.html?agencyFormId=53090334>.

You will be required to enter your inspection number when making the payment. Payments can be made by credit card or Automated Clearing House (ACH) using your banking information. Payments of \$25,000 or more require a Transaction ID, and also must be paid using ACH. If you require a Transaction ID, please contact the OSHA Debt Collection Team at (202) 693-2170.

OSHA does not agree to any restrictions or conditions or endorsements put on any check, money order, or electronic payment for less than the full amount due, and will process the payments as if these restrictions or conditions do not exist.

**Notification of Corrective Action** – For each violation which you do not contest, you must provide *abatement certification* to the Area Director of the OSHA office issuing the citation and identified above. This abatement certification is to be provided by letter within 10 calendar days after each abatement date. Abatement certification includes the date and method of abatement. If the citation indicates that the violation was corrected during the inspection, no abatement certification is required for that item. The abatement certification letter must be posted at the location where the violation appeared and the corrective action took place or employees must otherwise be effectively informed about abatement activities. A sample abatement certification letter is enclosed with this Citation. In addition, where the citation indicates that *abatement documentation* is necessary, evidence of the purchase or repair of equipment, photographs or video, receipts, training records, etc., verifying that abatement has occurred is required to be provided to the Area Director.

**Employer Discrimination Unlawful** – The law prohibits discrimination by an employer against an

employee for filing a complaint or for exercising any rights under this Act. An employee who believes that he/she has been discriminated against may file a complaint no later than 30 days after the discrimination occurred with the U.S. Department of Labor Area Office at the address shown above.

**Employer Rights and Responsibilities** – The enclosed booklet (OSHA 3000) outlines additional employer rights and responsibilities and should be read in conjunction with this notification.

**Notice to Employees** – The law gives an employee or his/her representative the opportunity to object to any abatement date set for a violation if he/she believes the date to be unreasonable. The contest must be mailed to the U.S. Department of Labor Area Office at the address shown above and postmarked within 15 working days (excluding weekends and Federal holidays) of the receipt by the employer of this Citation and Notification of Penalty.

**Inspection Activity Data** – You should be aware that OSHA publishes information on its inspection and citation activity on the Internet under the provisions of the Electronic Freedom of Information Act. The information related to these alleged violations will be posted when our system indicates that you have received this citation. You are encouraged to review the information concerning your establishment at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov). If you have any dispute with the accuracy of the information displayed, please contact this office.



## NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE

An informal conference has been scheduled with OSHA to discuss the citation(s) issued on 05/26/2020. The conference will be held by telephone or at the OSHA office located at 17625 El Camino Real, Suite 400, Houston, TX 77058 on \_\_\_\_\_ at

\_\_\_\_\_. Employees and/or representatives of employees have a right to attend an informal conference.

## CERTIFICATION OF CORRECTIVE ACTION WORKSHEET

**Inspection Number: 1448049**

Company Name: TPC GROUP LLC

Inspection Site: 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

Issuance Date: 05/26/2020

List the specific method of correction for each item on this citation in this package that does not read "Corrected During Inspection" and return to: **U.S. Department of Labor – Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 17625 El Camino Real, Suite 400, Houston, TX 77058**

Citation Number \_\_\_\_\_ and Item Number \_\_\_\_\_ was corrected on \_\_\_\_\_  
By (Method of Abatement): \_\_\_\_\_

Citation Number \_\_\_\_\_ and Item Number \_\_\_\_\_ was corrected on \_\_\_\_\_  
By (Method of Abatement): \_\_\_\_\_

Citation Number \_\_\_\_\_ and Item Number \_\_\_\_\_ was corrected on \_\_\_\_\_  
By (Method of Abatement): \_\_\_\_\_

Citation Number \_\_\_\_\_ and Item Number \_\_\_\_\_ was corrected on \_\_\_\_\_  
By (Method of Abatement): \_\_\_\_\_

Citation Number \_\_\_\_\_ and Item Number \_\_\_\_\_ was corrected on \_\_\_\_\_  
By (Method of Abatement): \_\_\_\_\_

Citation Number \_\_\_\_\_ and Item Number \_\_\_\_\_ was corrected on \_\_\_\_\_  
By (Method of Abatement): \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the information contained in this document is accurate and that the affected employees and their representatives have been informed of the abatement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**NOTE: 29 USC 666(g)** whoever knowingly makes any false statements, representation or certification in any application, record, plan or other documents filed or required to be maintained pursuant to the Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment of not more than 6 months or both.

**POSTING:** A copy of completed Corrective Action Worksheet should be posted for employee review



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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**Citation 1 Item 1** Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.119(f)(1): The employer did not develop and implement written operating procedures that provide clear instructions for safely conducting activities involved in each covered process consistent with the process safety information;

(a) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer failed to develop written operating procedures that provided clear instructions for using the bleed valve of the inlet piping to the S4D4 control valve (FV-3718) to unplug/clear the bottom pipe plugged because of polymer including popcorn polymer

(b) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer failed to develop written operating procedures that provided clear instructions for using the bleed valve of the inlet piping to the N4D7 control valve (FV-3618) to unplug/clear the inlet pipe plugged because of polymer including popcorn polymer

(c) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer failed to develop written operating procedures that provided clear instructions for using the bleed valve of the inlet piping to the S4D4 Reflux control valve (FV-3706 / HV-3705) to unplug/clear the reflux pipe plugged because of polymer including popcorn polymer

(d) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer failed to develop written operating procedures that provided clear instructions for throttling the steam turbine pump (6G75) that feeds the N4D7A column due to the control valve (FV-3601) being plugged with polymer including popcorn polymer.

(e) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer failed to develop written operating procedures that provided clear instructions for throttling the steam turbine pump (S4G8) to maintain reflux on S4D4A tower due to the control valve (FC-3706) being plugged with polymer including popcorn polymer.

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.



**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1448049  
**Inspection Date(s):** 11/27/2019 - 05/26/2020  
**Issuance Date:** 05/26/2020



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	07/13/2020
Proposed Penalty:	\$13494.00

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1448049  
**Inspection Date(s):** 11/27/2019 - 05/26/2020  
**Issuance Date:** 05/26/2020



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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Citation 1 Item 2    Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.119(g)(3): The employer failed to ascertain that each employee involved in operating a process has received and understood the training required by this paragraph. The employer did not prepare a record that contained the identity of the employee, the date of the training, and the means to verify that the employee understood the training:

(a) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer failed to provide documentation that ascertained that operators have been trained in the S4D4 bottom temporary filters free-up procedure

(b) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer failed to provide documentation that ascertained that operators have been trained in the N4D7 bottom temporary filters free-up procedure

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:  
Proposed Penalty:

07/13/2020  
\$9639.00

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1448049  
**Inspection Date(s):** 11/27/2019 - 05/26/2020  
**Issuance Date:** 05/26/2020



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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Citation 1 Item 3    Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.119(i)(2)(ii): The employer did not perform a pre-startup safety review to confirm that operating procedures were adequate when the modification was significant enough to require a change in process safety information:

(a) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer did not perform a pre-startup safety review to confirm that the S4D4 Shutdown procedure was adequate.

(b) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer did not perform a pre-startup safety review to confirm that the N4D7 Operating Guidelines Post Fractionation Service Procedure (Rev. 10/4/2011) was adequate.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:  
Proposed Penalty:

07/13/2020  
\$9639.00

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1448049  
**Inspection Date(s):** 11/27/2019 - 05/26/2020  
**Issuance Date:** 05/26/2020



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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**Citation 1 Item 4** Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.119(j)(4)(i): The employer did not perform inspection and tests on process equipment:

On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer did not perform inspection and tests on process equipment for the South and North MTBE units to include:

- a) S4D2 MTBE South tower.
- b) N4D2 MTBE North tower.

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	07/13/2020
Proposed Penalty:	\$13494.00

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1448049  
**Inspection Date(s):** 11/27/2019 - 05/26/2020  
**Issuance Date:** 05/26/2020



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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Citation 1 Item 5 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.119(j)(4)(iv): The employer did not document each inspection and test was performed on process equipment.

(a) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer failed to document the inspections and tests performed on S4D4B tower.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:  
Proposed Penalty:

07/13/2020  
\$9639.00

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1448049  
**Inspection Date(s):** 11/27/2019 - 05/26/2020  
**Issuance Date:** 05/26/2020



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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Citation 1 Item 6 Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.119(j)(5): The employer did not correct deficiencies in equipment that were outside acceptable limits (defined by the process safety information on paragraph (d) of this section) before further use

(a) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer failed to correct deficiencies in the 1-2 Butadiene analyzer AI3776 for S4D4 B tower.

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:  
Proposed Penalty:

07/13/2020  
\$13494.00

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1448049  
**Inspection Date(s):** 11/27/2019 - 05/26/2020  
**Issuance Date:** 05/26/2020



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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**Citation 1 Item 7** Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.119(l)(1): The employer did not implement procedures to manage changes to process chemicals, technology, equipment, and procedures, and changes to facilities that affect a covered process:

(a) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer did not implement MOC-4297 which required blinding and or air-gapping the North MTBE section to remove from service.

(b) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer did not implement MOC-3739 which required complete isolation of N4D2, N4F1 and N4F2 and related equipment from all energy sources (hydrocarbon and utilities).

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	07/13/2020
Proposed Penalty:	\$13494.00

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1448049  
**Inspection Date(s):** 11/27/2019 - 05/26/2020  
**Issuance Date:** 05/26/2020



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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The alleged violations below have been grouped because they involve similar or related hazards that may increase the potential for injury or illness.

**Citation 1 Item 8 a** Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.119(l)(2)(ii): The employer did not ensure that the management of change addressed the impact of the change on safety and health:

(a) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer failed to address the safety and health impact of the change implemented through MOC-4594 - Install basket strainers at S4D4B bottoms to segregated crude.

(b) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer failed to address the safety and health impact of the change implemented through MOC-4602 - Install temporary basket strainers between the bottoms of N4D7B tower and N4D8 feed.

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	07/13/2020
Proposed Penalty:	\$13494.00

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.





**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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**Citation 1 Item 8 b Type of Violation: **Serious****

29 CFR 1910.134(d)(1)(iii): The employer did not identify and evaluate the respiratory hazard in the workplace; including a reasonable estimate of employee exposures to respiratory hazards and identification of the contaminants chemical state and physical form:

(a) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer did not make a reasonable assessment of the respiratory hazards of the exposure to butadiene before instructing employees to change out filters from the bottom of the S4D4 tower.

(b) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer did not make a reasonable assessment of the respiratory hazards of the exposure to butadiene before instructing employees to change out filters from the bottom of the N4D7 tower.

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:

07/13/2020

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1448049  
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**Issuance Date:** 05/26/2020



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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**Citation 1 Item 9**    Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.119(n): The employer did not implement an emergency plan for the entire plant in accordance with the provisions of 29 CFR 1910.38:

(a) On or about 11/27/2019, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer did not activate the alarm to initiate evacuation for a butadiene release in the south 4 group.

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	07/13/2020
Proposed Penalty:	\$13494.00

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1448049  
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**Issuance Date:** 05/26/2020



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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**Citation 2 Item 1**    Type of Violation: **Willful**

29 CFR 1910.119(f)(1): The employer failed to implement written operating procedures for safely conducting activities involved in each covered process:

(a) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer failed to implement its Dead Legs in High Purity Butadiene Service procedure to avoid a dead leg on the suction line of the S4G7 pump by flushing and/or by performing the required pump rotation, while the pump was down for maintenance.

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	07/13/2020
Proposed Penalty:	\$134937.00

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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**Citation 2 Item 2** Type of Violation: **Willful**

29 CFR 1910.119(f)(1)(i)(D): The employer did not develop written operating procedures that provide clear instructions for Emergency shutdown including the conditions under which emergency shutdown is required, and the assignment of shutdown responsibility to qualified operators to ensure that emergency shutdown is executed in a safe and timely manner;

(a) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer's S4D4A/B Emergency Shutdown Procedure (Rev. 11/23/2011) did not provide employees with the conditions under which emergency shutdown is required for the S4D4A/B tower

(b) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer's N4D7 Emergency Shutdown procedure (Rev. 10/4/2011) did not provide employees with the conditions under which emergency shutdown is required for the N4D7 tower

(c) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, the employer's S2D1 Emergency Shutdown Procedure (Rev. 10/1/2011) did not provide employees with the conditions under which emergency shutdown is required for the S2D1 tower

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:  
Proposed Penalty:

07/13/2020  
\$134937.00

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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**Citation 2 Item 3**    Type of Violation: **Willful**

29 CFR 1910.119(j)(5): The employer did not correct deficiencies in equipment that were outside acceptable limits (defined by the process safety information on paragraph (d) of this section) before further use and did not take necessary means to assure safe operation:

(a) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, employees operating the south 4 group and north unit distillation towers including S4D4A/B and N4D7A/B were exposed to fire and explosion hazards when operating the units equipment outside acceptable limits as a result of the presence of polymer including crystalline popcorn polymer.

-In the Alternative-

OSH ACT of 1970 Section (5)(a)(1): The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees due to fire and explosion hazards:

(a) On or about 11/27/2019 and times prior to, at the TPC Group Port Neches facility, employees operating the south 4 group and north unit distillation towers including S4D4A/B and N4D7A/B were exposed to fire and explosion hazards following a release of highly hazardous chemical as a result of the presence of polymer including crystalline popcorn polymer.

Among other methods, a feasible and acceptable abatement method to correct these hazards are to:

1. Follow the American Chemistry Council (2019) (Butadiene Popcorn Polymer Formation: Prevention/Control - Page 34) recommendations of ways to remove popcorn polymer from a unit to include:

(i) Mechanical means such as Chipping or hydro-blasting

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:

07/13/2020

Proposed Penalty:

\$134937.00

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
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**Inspection Number:** 1448049  
**Inspection Date(s):** 11/27/2019 - 05/26/2020  
**Issuance Date:** 05/26/2020



**Citation and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Briggs", written over a horizontal line.

**Mark R. Briggs**  
Area Director

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
17625 El Camino Real  
Suite 400  
Houston, TX 77058



## INVOICE / DEBT COLLECTION NOTICE

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**Company Name:** TPC GROUP LLC  
**Inspection Site:** 2102 SPUR 136, Port Neches, TX 77651  
**Issuance Date:** 05/26/2020

<b>Summary of Penalties for Inspection Number</b>	<b>1448049</b>
<b>Citation 1, Serious</b>	<b>\$109881.00</b>
<b>Citation 2, Willful</b>	<b>\$404811.00</b>
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED PENALTIES</b>	<b>\$514692.00</b>

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To avoid additional charges, please remit payment promptly to this Area Office for the total amount of the uncontested penalties summarized above. Make your check or money order payable to: "DOL-OSHA". Please indicate OSHA's Inspection Number (indicated above) on the remittance. You can also make your payment electronically on [www.pay.gov](http://www.pay.gov). On the left side of the pay.gov homepage, you will see an option to Search Public Forms. Type "OSHA" and click Go. From the results, click on **OSHA Penalty Payment Form**. The direct link is <https://www.pay.gov/paygov/forms/formInstance.html?agencyFormId=53090334>. You will be required to enter your inspection number when making the payment. Payments can be made by credit card or Automated Clearing House (ACH) using your banking information. Payments of \$25,000 or more require a Transaction ID, and also must be paid using ACH. If you require a Transaction ID, please contact the OSHA Debt Collection Team at (202) 693-2170.

OSHA does not agree to any restrictions or conditions or endorsements put on any check, money order, or electronic payment for less than the full amount due, and will cash the check or money order as if these restrictions or conditions do not exist.

If a personal check is issued, it will be converted into an electronic fund transfer (EFT). This means that our bank will copy your check and use the account information on it to electronically debit your account for the amount of the check. The debit from your account will then usually occur within 24 hours and will be shown on your regular account statement. You will not receive your original check back. The bank will destroy your original check, but will keep a copy of it. If the EFT cannot be completed because of insufficient funds or closed

account, the bank will attempt to make the transfer up to 2 times.

Pursuant to the Debt Collection Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-365) and regulations of the U.S. Department of Labor (29 CFR Part 20), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is required to assess interest, delinquent charges, and administrative costs for the collection of delinquent penalty debts for violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

**Interest:** Interest charges will be assessed at an annual rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury on all penalty debt amounts not paid within one month (30 calendar days) of the date on which the debt amount becomes due and payable (penalty due date). The current interest rate is one percent (1%). Interest will accrue from the date on which the penalty amounts (as proposed or adjusted) become a final order of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (that is, 15 working days from your receipt of the Citation and Notification of Penalty), unless you file a notice of contest. Interest charges will be waived if the full amount owed is paid within 30 calendar days of the final order.

**Delinquent Charges:** A debt is considered delinquent if it has not been paid within one month (30 calendar days) of the penalty due date or if a satisfactory payment arrangement has not been made. If the debt remains delinquent for more than 90 calendar days, a delinquent charge of six percent (6%) per annum will be assessed accruing from the date that the debt became delinquent.

**Administrative Costs:** Agencies of the Department of Labor are required to assess additional charges for the recovery of delinquent debts. These additional charges are administrative costs incurred by the Agency in its attempt to collect an unpaid debt. Administrative costs will be assessed for demand letters sent in an attempt to collect the unpaid debt.



**Mark R. Briggs**

Area Director



Date