



Victoria Advocate: Explosion at Formosa Plastics in Texas, 2005. According to CSB, 16 workers were injured.

# 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**.

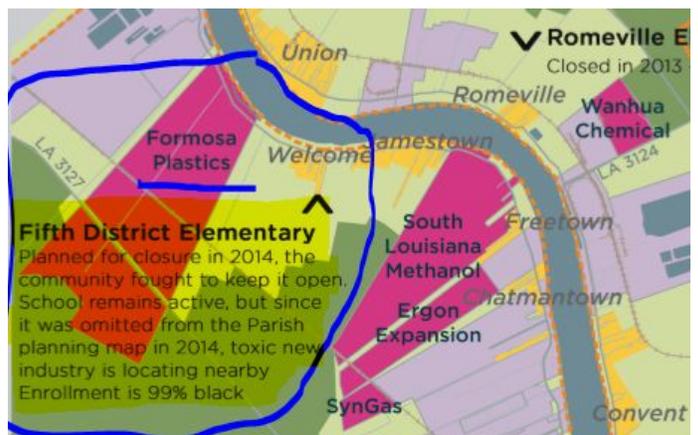
## APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE FROM A SCHOOL

The proposed 14-plant Formosa complex would operate approximately one mile from Fifth District Elementary school.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> Formosa would add thousands of tons of pollutants into the air in the 5th District, which already bears a heavy pollution burden. These pollutants include, among other things, cancer-causing compounds, particulates, and nitrogen oxides.

## AIR PERMITS FOR POLLUTION

Though Formosa's petrochemical complex was approved by the St. James Parish Council, the company must obtain multiple air, water, and land permits to proceed. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is currently reviewing the proposed air permits and the

Distance to Fifth Ward Elementary School



Environmental Assessment Statement for all 14 plants, along with the 15,000 submitted comments opposing these permits. **This is what DEQ is proposing to 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.<sup>3</sup> One study concluded that **exposure to ethylene oxide during pregnancy** was associated with **increased risk of spontaneous abortion** and pregnancy.<sup>4</sup> Only one other facility in Louisiana (Sasol Chemicals) reported that it emitted more than 7.70 tons of ethylene oxide in 2017.<sup>5</sup>
- **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.<sup>6</sup>
- **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."**<sup>7</sup> In October, Formosa agreed to pay \$50 million to settle the Clean Water Act suit filed by Texas residents.<sup>8</sup>

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.<sup>9</sup>

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.<sup>10</sup>

---

# There is still time to stop Formosa.

Without the required air permits, Formosa can't build its 14-facility plastics complex in St. James and make it impossible for residents to live healthy lives.

## Join us!

More info at [www.stopformosa.org](http://www.stopformosa.org)

To get more involved, please **send an email to [risestjames@gmail.com](mailto:risestjames@gmail.com)**

**Join the RISE St. James Facebook page** to get updates on Formosa and begin organizing with St. James Parish residents.



---

<sup>3</sup> EPA, Evaluation of the Inhalation Carcinogenicity of Ethylene Oxide, Dec. 2016

<sup>4</sup> Gresie-Brusin, D.F., Kielkowski, D., Baker, A. et al. Int Arch Occup Environ Health (2007) 80: 559. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00420-006-0163-y>

<sup>5</sup> 2017 EPA Toxic Release Inventory

<sup>6</sup> 2017 EPA Toxic Release Inventory

<sup>7</sup> Mitchell, David. "Texas Judge Finds Formosa 'Serial Offender' as Environmentalists Fight Plans for Louisiana." *The Advocate*, June 29, 2019.

<sup>8</sup> Fernández, Stacy. "Plastic company set to pay \$50 million settlement in water pollution suit brought on by Texas residents." *The Texas Tribune*. October 15, 2019.

---

<sup>9</sup> EPA, Enforcement & Compliance History Online, Detailed Facility Report, Accessed Sept. 17, 2018

<sup>10</sup> Yu, Jess Macy, and Faith Hung. "Exclusive: Broken Rules at \$11 Billion Formosa Mill Triggered Vietnam Spill." *Reuters*, November 13, 2016.