



DEMAND CLEANER AIR FOR HARRISBURG AND MANCHESTER

Say NO to HARMFUL air pollution in YOUR neighborhood!

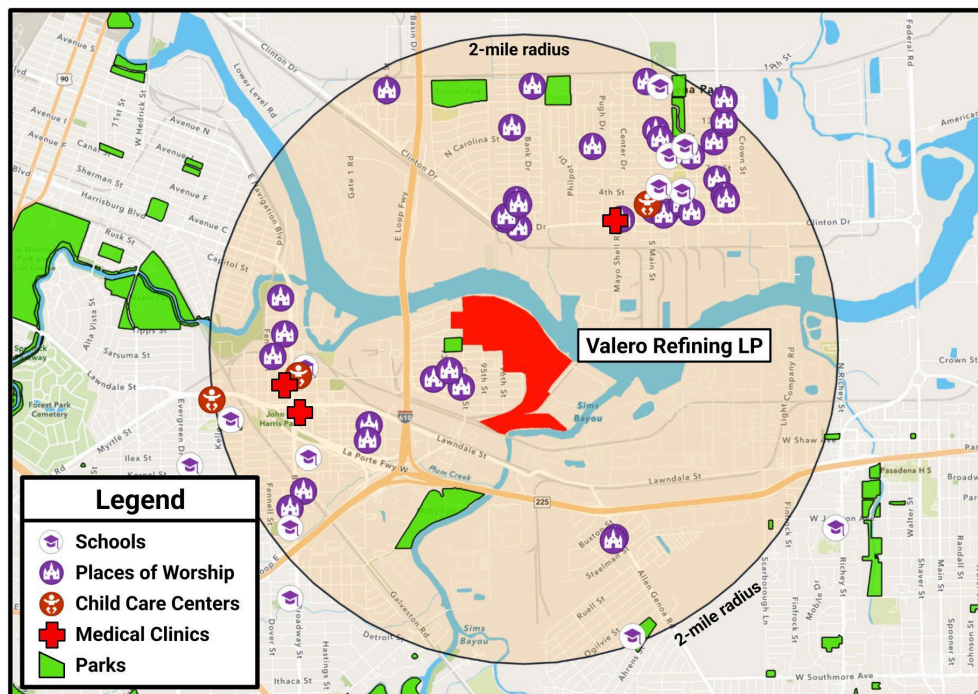
NEW AIR PERMIT (No. 04898)

VALERO REFINING-TEXAS LP - Valero Houston Refinery

Located at: 9701 Manchester St, Houston, Harris County, TX 77012

What is being decided?

- Valero Refining-Texas LP has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a Federal Operating Permit to operate its Valero Houston Refinery at 9701 Manchester St, Houston, Harris County, TX 77012. The facility processes crude oil to produce petroleum products, including gasoline, diesel, and kerosene.
- The proposed Federal Operating Permit (FOP) consolidates all air quality standards for the facility and defines air monitoring, reporting, and compliance requirements.
- Both TCEQ and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will have an opportunity to review the permit. They can approve, amend, or reject the permit.



The map to the left shows the proposed facility's **proximity to sensitive areas** in the nearby community.

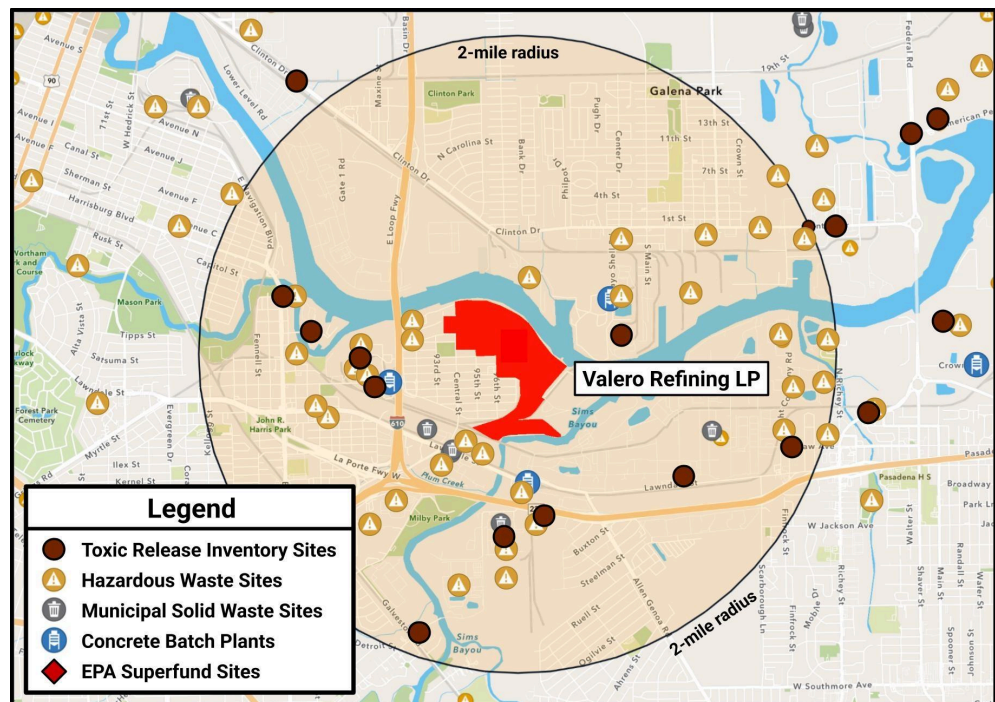
These sites are especially vulnerable to air pollution, as they are community centers where vulnerable individuals spend much of their time.

Everyone has a right to breathe clean air.

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The map to the right shows the proposed facility's **proximity to other environmental hazards and sources of air pollution.**

Multiple pollution sources increase an area's cumulative pollution burden, negatively impacting public health.



What pollutants are emitted by petrochemical facilities?

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
 - VOCs are a family of chemicals including ethylene, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, and formaldehyde. Many VOCs are highly toxic, and exposure can lead to organ damage and cancer.
 - VOCs contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, another harmful air pollutant. Harris County is designated as a “severe nonattainment area” for ozone health standards.
 - This facility is authorized to emit **over 1,000 tons of VOCs per year.**
- Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x)
 - Nitrogen oxides can cause respiratory irritation and have been linked to the development of asthma and other lung conditions, particularly in children.
 - NO_x also contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone.
 - This facility is authorized to emit **over 400 tons of NO_x per year.**
- Carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter (including PM_{2.5}), and hydrogen sulfide.
 - Long-term exposure to these air pollutants is hazardous to health and well-being. Many of these pollutants are linked to the development of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and asthma.

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What are the specific concerns about this facility?

- The Valero Houston Refinery is a petroleum refinery located along the Houston Ship Channel. It is a major source of air pollution and has a history of violating its air pollution permits:
 - In 2024 alone, the Valero Houston Refinery released **over 167,000 pounds of air pollution, 62% of which was hydrogen cyanide, which is considered highly toxic** (Source: [EPA's TRI Toxics Tracker](#)). This amount of pollution poses an extreme public health risk.
 - Since 2019, 9 emission events have occurred. These events have released over 46 tons of unauthorized emissions into the air, including carcinogenic chemicals like benzene and 1,3-butadiene.
- More than **7,500 households** are within a 2-mile radius of the proposed facility.
- Petrochemical facilities like this one are disproportionately located in working-class communities of color, placing an undue environmental and health burden on these communities. The area within 2 miles of the facility already experiences **8 times the state average for toxic releases to air, and 22 times the national average**. The community within 2 miles of the facility is comprised of:
 - 96% people of color
 - 89% identifying as Hispanic or Latino
 - 7% identifying as Black
 - 51% low-income households
 - 76% Spanish-speaking
- The proposed facility would be close to a number of other environmental hazards and sources of pollution. These include (within 2 miles) **3 concrete batch plants, 11 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) facilities, 5 municipal solid waste sites, and 34 hazardous waste sites**. The cumulative impact of these facilities poses a significant health risk to nearby communities.

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- The facility is also within 2 miles of **10 schools, 30+ places of worship, 3 childcare centers, and 12 parks/natural areas, among other sensitive use areas:**

Schools:

- Galena Park Middle
- Galena Park Elementary
- Galena Park High
- MacArthur Elementary
- YES Prep East End Secondary
- JR Harris Elementary
- Milby High
- Deady Middle
- Davila Elementary
- Our Lady of Fatima School

Child Care Facilities:

- Becker Early Childhood Center
- Head Start Center
- Little Bo Peep Day Care

Medical Clinics:

- Clinica San Felipe
- Urgencias ABC Urgent Care
- Broadway Clinic

Parks/Natural Areas:

- Hartman Park
- Daniel Hayes Park
- Charles H. Milby Park
- Woodruff Park
- Brays Greenway Park
- Dement Field
- Galena Park City Park
- Galena Manor Park
- Center Park
- Galena Park Sports Complex
- Brays Bayou
- Buffalo Bayou

Places of Worship:

- Iglesia Evangelistica Central
- Manchester Baptist Church
- St Alphonsus Catholic Church
- Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist
- Johnson Chapel AME Church
- First Missionary Baptist
- Templo Bethlehem del CLADIC
- Primera Iglesia Bautista Maranatha
- Church Lighthouse
- Iglesia Intimidad Con Dios
- Christians Unlimited Emmanuel Church
- Tabernáculo de Vida Houston
- Olive Tree Church-God Seventh Day Galena
- Sweet Home Baptist Church
- Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church
- Mt Zion Church of God in Christ
- Ellis Memorial Church of God in Christ
- St Matthew's Baptist Church
- Lane Tabernacle Christian Methodist Church
- Oak Hill Baptist Church
- True Word Deliverance Revival Center
- Templo Galilea
- Evangelical Garifuna Church of Houston
- Macedonia Baptist Church
- Peace Lutheran Church-Missouri
- Iglesia Evangelica Cristiana Espiritual
- Iglesia Pentecostal Unida Hispana
- Iglesia Vida Nueva Elim
- Iglesia Misionera Bíblica
- First Baptist Church Galena Park
- Samaria Christian Church
- Iglesia Intimidad Con Dios
- Broadway Baptist Church
- Iglesia Linaje Escogido

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What should TCEQ do about the permit application?

- TCEQ should ensure that neighboring communities have access to all air monitoring data collected by the facility, so that they know what's in the air they breathe.
- TCEQ must strengthen the permit and *require enhanced pollution control practices*.
- Best pollution control practices should be required to reduce plant pollution.

What can I do to slow, stop, or strengthen this permit?

- Type up your comments and submit them to TCEQ online. To submit written comments, go to: <http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>. Type “4898” in the Permit Number box. You will be taken to an online form where you can type in your comments or attach a document. The form requires you to provide contact information. **See the next page for a sample comment.**
- Contact your elected officials (listed below) and voice your concerns about this facility, which would contribute to the air pollution in your community. Ask them to attend the public meeting and submit a public comment opposing the facility ([click here to find your elected officials](#))
 - **State Senator, District 6:** Carol Alvarado, 713-926-6257
 - **State Representative, District 128:** Christina Morales, 713-718-5915

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COPY AND PASTE THESE SAMPLE COMMENTS

I live near the Valero Houston Refinery at 9701 Manchester St. Valero Refining is applying for a new Federal Operating Permit, number 4898, to operate its Houston refinery. I am concerned that this permit does not protect my community's health.

Petrochemical facilities emit health-harming pollutants, including:

- Volatile Organic Compounds, many of which are carcinogenic.
- Nitrogen Oxides, which have been linked to the development of respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma, especially in children.
- Carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter (including PM_{2.5}), and hydrogen sulfide: all hazardous air pollutants.
- Noise and light pollution, impacting the mental well-being of residents around the facility.

More than 7,500 households are within two miles of the proposed facility. It's also within 2 miles of 10 schools, 30+ places of worship, 3 childcare centers, and 12 parks/natural areas, among other sensitive use areas. In addition, it is also located within 2 miles of 3 concrete batch plants, 11 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) facilities, 5 municipal solid waste sites, and 34 hazardous waste sites. The cumulative health impact of these sources of air pollution must be considered.

I understand that this facility is a significant source of hazardous air pollution. I am writing this to prioritize my health and that of my community. I urge you to take this opportunity to protect the well-being of your fellow Texans—time and time again, TCEQ has failed in doing so.

ADD YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY HERE: This can be about your health, your quality of life as affected by this facility, or others, etc.

I want TCEQ to prioritize the community's health, as they have the power to stop this facility from exposing me and my neighborhood to continued air pollution and all of its negative health and quality of life impacts. Reject this permit amendment!

END OF SAMPLE COMMENTS

For additional information, contact Air Alliance Houston at (713) 528-3779.

Go to our website for updates on permit campaigns:
www.airalliancehouston.org > Community Updates > AirMail

To join our movement for clean air, sign up for our mailing list by scanning the QR code or by following this link: tinyurl.com/subscribeaah



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