

Senator Royce Duplessis' 2026 SB356 Real-time Fenceline Air Monitoring Legislation

Costs of Louisiana's Serious Accidental Chemical Releases

- Louisiana has the nation's highest rate of exposure to serious accidental chemical releases (resulting in deaths, injuries, ordered evacuations, or shelter-in-place orders), more than twice the rate in Texas.¹
- Between 8/20 – 8/23, 27 serious accidental chemical releases at 18 LA industrial facilities within 8 Parishes resulted in:²
 - 2 Documented Deaths, 123 Confirmed Hospitalizations
 - >16,700 Resident Evacuations
 - >105,000 Residents Ordered to Shelter-In-Place
- **Facility costs:**
 - 7 of 18 Facility Owners paid > \$130 million in chemical release-related fines/penalties
 - >\$100 million in property damage and product loss
 - At least six Class Action & Wrongful Death Lawsuits filed
 - >1,000 residents represented in Class Action Lawsuits
- **Real-time Fenceline Monitoring and Alert Systems reduce risks and costs through:**
 - Rapid detection of the source, location, and concentration of potential life-threatening releases
 - Early warning for first responders, elected officials, residents, schools, businesses, and LDEQ
 - Real-time notifications of exceedances of health-based concentrations
- **Fenceline monitoring is currently in place at all CA & CO refineries & multiple chemical manufacturers including Honeywell in Geismar, LA and 3 facilities in Texas.**³
- **Monitoring system capital costs range from \$250,000 (4 monitors) to \$630,000 (10 monitors).**^{4,5}
- **Based on analysis results, Compared to 2023 SB-35 & previous bills, the Draft Legislation:**
 - Reduced covered pollutants from 235 to the 17 most toxic (93%)
 - Reduced covered facilities from 470 to 113 highest risk (75%)
 - Significantly reduced required LDEQ new activities and resource needs
- **Capital costs of Real-time Fenceline Monitoring/Alert Systems**
 - Fenceline monitoring/alert systems designed for most of Louisiana's chemical manufacturers would only require 4 open path monitors with a total capital cost of \$250,000.
 - For larger facilities, such as Marathon Garyville—the nation's third largest refinery—the system would require 10 open path monitors with a total cost of around \$630,000.
 - While these expenses may seem significant, they are relatively minor when compared to the facilities' industrial tax incentives. For instance, Marathon's \$630,000 cost literally represents a rounding error of its average \$364 million/year in property tax exemption.

¹ Nelms D and Bernat E. Key Findings: Chemical Incident Tracking 2021-2023. An analysis by Coming Clean and the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform. Nov. 9, 2023

² Research conducted by Vickie Boothe, Rosane Archery-McGowan, Greg Gasperecz (Greater New Orleans Climate Reality Project) and Scott Eustis (Healthy Gulf)

³ Chevron chemical plants in Cedar Bayou, Port Arthur, and Sweeney, Texas. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/chevron-phillips-chemical-company-agrees-reduce-harmful-air-pollution-three-us-chemical>

⁴ The 6 EPA -Suggested Fenceline Monitoring Methods for Petroleum Refineries. <https://enveraconsulting.com/petroleum-refinery-fenceline-monitoring/>

⁵ Mitro T. Santa Barbara APCD Proposed Staff Report for: Rule 364 Refinery Fenceline and Community Air Monitoring. 2020