



People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources

To: Mayor Steve Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Harper-Madison, and Council members Fuentes, Renteria, Vela, Kitchen, Kelly, Pool, Ellis, Tovo, & Alter

From: Susana Almanza, Director and Janie Rangel, Board Chair

Date: February 16, 2022

Subject: Relocate AUS Fuels Company's Toxic Tank Farm from current proposed site off Hwy 183 & Metropolis Drive and feet within Residents & Businesses

February 18th, 2022, marks the 29th year victory of the closure of the East Austin Toxic Tank Farm located on the 52 acre site at the intersection of Airport Boulevard and Springdale Road. This toxic tank farm (fuel storage facility) owned by six separate oil giant corporations were permitted individually. TCEQ (formal name TNRCC) did not consider cumulative emissions when permitting each of the six corporations, even though they were all located adjacent to one another. The toxic tank farm was one of the largest recognized cases of environmental racism because low income and communities of color lived adjacent and within a one-mile radius of the toxic tank farm. Community members suffered with health problems. The adjacent environment was also negatively impacted by the toxic tank farm. East Austin residents and communities of color have endured a legacy of racism in East Austin.

The Austin City Council, AUS Fuel Company, TCEQ and the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration Southwest Region must end the legacy of racism. The new proposed fuel tank farm (fuel storage facility) must not be sited within feet of residents and local businesses. Again, large corporations, this time its airlines, which are wanting to site the next toxic tank farm within feet of low income and communities of color.

PODER disagrees with U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration Southwest Region that the siting of the fuel farm does not require an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement). What was absent in the findings were the negative human impacts of communities of color that are already living adjacent to an airport that is continually expanding. Cumulative human impacts due to noise, traffic, and current fuel tank farms were not mentioned in the findings.

It is obvious that as the airport grows so will the toxic tank farm. This will be another case of environmental injustice, environmental racism. Please relocate the proposed fuel tank farm site. Let us protect low income and people of color from the legacy of racism.