



Questions from the Community about Pyrolysis Oil Processing

Below are responses to questions raised by our community. We will provide any changes or updates as we continue to work with the EPA on the prospect of processing pyoil at the refinery.

Updated 4/6/2023

***ProPublica* recently published an article that referenced a process that EPA approved at the Chevron Pascagoula Refinery involving pyrolysis oil. What is pyrolysis oil and what is the process referenced in the article?**

Pyrolysis is the process of thermally breaking down plastics back into a hydrocarbon feedstock. That feedstock can then be run at the refinery recycling it into plastics or other products.

The EPA approved our using pyrolysis oil, or pyoil, as a feedstock under specified conditions as part of an advanced sustainable recycling program. We safely completed a short trial period about a year ago and fed minor amounts of pyoil, but have not fed any since.

The article mentions cancer risks in association with the pyoil process. Are people in Pascagoula at a 1 in 4 risk of cancer as the writer claims?

No, the claim is based on EPA's initial risk screening, which was taken out of context and doesn't reflect how it would actually be done given the processes and safeguards we use every day at the refinery to ensure we do everything safely or not at all. The EPA's initial screening is very conservative and doesn't represent actual risk to our community or employees as if it were actually run in the refinery. We will not process pyoil if it does not meet regulatory emissions requirements. We will not do anything that is unsafe for our workers or our neighboring communities. We will ensure it can be done safely or not at all.

Will Chevron be making the pyrolysis oil onsite?

Chevron will not make the pyrolysis oil feedstock onsite.

Will the sensors that Chevron currently has in place in Pascagoula be capable of monitoring emissions from processing pyoil? Will new sensors be required to detect new types of emissions that aren't currently being monitored at the refinery?

Chevron will not need new sensors. The safety equipment and processes that are in place today for our current feedstocks are the same ones applicable to this pyoil feedstock.

What did Chevron's monitoring show during the trial period when pyoil was running through the refinery?

The refinery functioned normally, and emission levels while processing the pyoil remained normal.

This article came out several weeks ago, why didn't the community hear from Chevron sooner?

We could have responded sooner at a local level. Initially we thought it would be appropriate to let the EPA comment as it was their data that was taken out of context, and that doing so would have allowed us to provide better information. But, since the article was focused on our refinery and our community, we should have provided a direct response to our friends, family and neighbors. We are considering different ways to do that, like updating our Pascagoula refinery website to address emerging topics like this for the local community. We would welcome suggestions from our friends and neighbors about topics of interest to the community that we could provide more information about on our Pascagoula refinery website. We've been proud to be a part of the Pascagoula community for 60 years, operating safely, providing energy locally and abroad, and providing for our friends and families. Whatever the future holds for this refinery, we will continue to operate it safely for our workers and our community.