

Diane Wilson
San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper
600 Ramona Rd.
Seadrift, TX 77983
phone: 361-218-2353
Email: wilsonalamobay@aol.com

March 9, 2026

Jim Fitterling, Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Dow
c/o
Thomas Welch, Interim Site Director
Union Carbide Corporation
A Subsidiary of the Dow Chemical Corporation
7501 State Highway 185 North
North Seadrift, TX 77983

Dear Mr. Fitterling,

My name is Diane Wilson. I'm a fourth-generation fisherwoman and have lived my entire life in Seadrift, Texas, a fishing town that is approximately eight miles from your Dow, Seadrift plant. I am also Executive Director of the nonprofit environmental group, San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper (SABEW).

I am deeply distressed by the current and proposed hazardous, radioactive and plastic pollution threats to the Bay from Dow and am embarking on a Hunger Strike and Encampment to call for a cease to these emissions and plans for more. Violating the Clean Water Act and using the region as a guinea pig for dangerous nuclear reactors are completely unacceptable.

On December 17, 2025, SABEW sent Dow a Notice of Intent to Sue for violations of the Clean Water Act at the Seadrift Operations Facility located at 7762 Highway 185, Seadrift, TX 77983 by Union Carbide Corporation; Dow Hydrocarbons and Resources LLC; and Braskem America, Inc. On February 13, 2026, several days before we could have filed our Clean Water Suit, the State of Texas sued Dow, alleging years of habitual water pollution violations involving plastic pellets at its Seadrift complex. The state's lawsuit has moved the fight against Dow's plastic pollution into the state courts.

On January 4, 2026, Dow and its subsidiary, Union Carbide, requested a change to its wastewater permit in a 320-page application. This was three weeks after SABEW announced plans to sue Dow over unpermitted plastic pollution.

Dow/UCC's latest application request sought, among other things, to loosen standard language that limited "floating solids" to "trace amounts" in chemical plant wastewater. Dow said that that language in the existing permit is vague and has the potential to be more stringent than necessary. It didn't specify a new limit but said "proposed language will be forthcoming."

Quite frankly, this is astonishing language from Dow given that for over a year we have found and observed untold quantities of plastic pellets and powder being discharged into the Victoria Barge Canal, receiving waters and lands surrounding Dow/Union Carbide, much more beyond what could be considered trace amounts. For example, one sample was collected in the Victoria Barge Canal on September 16, 2025, and weighed 13.3 pounds. That equates to approximately 290,400 pellets. And that is not the largest sample we have collected. A sample collected on December 31, 2025, weighed 107 pounds and had over 2 million pellets.

Another concern: on March 31, 2025 Dow's wholly owned subsidiary, Long Mott Energy L.L.C. applied to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a license to construct four nuclear reactors at the Dow Union Carbide Seadrift site. They are a type of nuclear reactor that has never been built in the US and is not licensed by the NRC. If built, the nuclear reactors would lack the conventional concrete and steel containment structures required at every existing U.S. nuclear plant to prevent dangerous radioactive release in case of accidents, relying instead on an unproven "functional containment" approach that has never been tested at commercial scale. Further, these reactors will routinely emit radioactivity into our air and water with unknown risks given no commercial precedent for this design. Then there is the concern of nuclear waste: there is currently no licensed permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste anywhere in the United States meaning the spent fuel will remain here in Seadrift. SABEW intervened and was granted standing, but not all our objections were accepted for review. SABEW opposes the economics, environmental and health dangers, pollution and long lasting deadly radioactive waste that will forever threaten our communities, our water and air, our lifestyles and economic survival.

In response to all these concerns that I feel will be devastating to our bays, fisheries, marine life, and Seadrift fishing community, on March 2, 2026, I began a hunger strike and 24/7 encampment near the entrance in the ditch of the Dow/Union Carbide Seadrift facility. I have a tent and am camping out 24 hours, 7 days a week to impress upon Dow/Union Carbide our intense dislike and frustration of decades of plastic pollution being discharged into our bays and waterways. I am also in your ditch to express our opposition to the recent wastewater application and the attempt to alter standard language regarding "floating solids" and "trace amounts" that could allow even more discharge of plastic solids. Given our opposition to the application, I am determined to continue the hunger strike until the following demands are met:

- 1) Dow will write to TCEQ as part of the current Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit renewal process to rescind the pending application and replace it with a renewed TPDES permit application that will contain the following requirements:
 - a) There will be zero (0) discharge of Plastics (pellets, powder, flakes) from Dow's Seadrift plant. Dow shall not propose the Plastics in its discharge in any way are part of permitted total suspended solids.

- b) Dow will provide SABEW a copy of the letter to TCEQ complying with this term immediately after sending it. Dow will also provide SABEW copies of any subsequent correspondence and notification of in person or oral communications to or from TCEQ regarding these proposed permit terms within five (5) days.
 - c) Regardless of whether TCEQ adopts these new permit terms proposed by Dow, Dow agrees to comply with the paragraphs above.
- 2) A second demand to end this hunger strike and related to the above referenced licensing of four high-temperature, gas cooled reactors at Dow's proposed Long Mott Generating Station, which DOE is supporting through its Advanced Reactor Demonstration program:
- a) Cancel all plans to build nuclear reactors at the Seadrift site and withdraw from its partnership with X-Energy and the award from the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program.
 - b) Long Mott Energy, the partnership between Dow and X-Energy, will withdraw its construction permit application pending before the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

I appreciate your consideration and quick response to this letter.

Sincerely,

Diane Wilson
 Executive Director
 San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper

Organizational Endorsements - *Last updated April 17, 2026*

The undersigned 56 organizations stand in solidarity with Diane Wilson and San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper in demanding that Dow rescind its current wastewater permit application, commit to zero discharge of plastics from its Seadrift Operations facility, and withdraw its application to construct nuclear reactors at the site.

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| Waterkeeper Alliance | Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community |
| Anacostia Riverkeeper | Between the Waters |
| Atchafalaya Basinkeeper | Beyond Plastics |
| Bay Area Jewish Earth Alliance | Center for Biological Diversity |
| Bayou City Waterkeeper | |

Center for Oil & Gas Organizing	People Over Petro Coalition
Clean Air Action Network of Glen Falls	Plastic Pollution Coalition
Clean4Change KY	Plastic Soup Foundation
Columbia Riverkeeper	Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN)
Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPws)	Public Citizen
The Descendants Project	Recycle Hawaii
DSA SWLA	Rise St. James Louisiana
Fenceline Watch	Russian Riverkeeper
Flamingo Chap Chap Auji-Kibos Waterkeeper	SAF-TESO
FoCo Trash Mob, a BeyondPlastics Affiliate	Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter
For a Better Bayou	Society of Native Nations
FracTracker Alliance	South Texas Environmental Justice Network
FreshWater Accountability Project	Stop Waste Tucson
Grand Riverkeeper Labrador	Texas Campaign for the Environment
Hip Hop Caucus	Texas Nuclear Watchdogs
Huntsville Progressive Letter Writers	Texas Permian Future Generations
Milwaukee Riverkeeper	Three Rivers Waterkeeper
Minnesota Environmental Justice Table	Turtle Island Restoration Network (TIRN)
Ocean. Now!	Valley Improvement Projects
One Earth Body Care, LLC	Valley of the Flowers Project
Oregon Conservancy Foundation	Yellow Dog Waterkeeper
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility	Zero Waste BC
Our Zero Waste Future	Zero Waste Ithaca
Pacific Environment	

cc:

Jacqueline C. Hinman, Chair, EHS&T Committee, Dow
Wesley G. Bush, Member, EHS&T Committee, Dow
Debra L. Dial, Member, EHS&T Committee, Dow
Jerri DeVard, Member, EHS&T Committee, Dow
Luis Alberto Moreno, Member, EHS&T Committee, Dow
Jill S. Wyant, Member, EHS&T Committee, Dow
Denise DeLaune, VP Operations, U.S. Gulf Coast & Site Director, Dow TX Operations
John Sampson, Senior VP, Operations, Dow
Karen S. Carter, COO, Dow
U.S. Senator John Cornyn (TX)

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (TX)
U.S. Representative Michael Cloud (TX-27)
TX Governor Greg Abbott
TX Attorney General Ken Paxton
TX State Senator Lois Kolkhorst (SD-18)
TX State Representative J.M. Lozano (HD-43)
Kelly Keel, Executive Director, Texas Commission for Environmental Quality
Scott Mason IV, Administrator, EPA Region 6