

## Statement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in response to the Center for Effective Government's report, "Kids in Danger Zones":

Protecting our most vulnerable populations from harm is of utmost concern to EPA and the Obama Administration. In a report to the President, entitled *Actions to Improve Chemical Facility Safety and Security – A Shared Commitment*, to address chemical plant safety pursuant to the President's executive order on chemical safety, EPA, along with its partners across the federal government including DHS and OSHA, identified that some communities are potentially vulnerable to an accident at a chemical plant.

We identified a series of actions including providing assistance and additional information to local and state preparedness and response organizations to enable them to assess risks, identify prevention opportunities and prepare emergency response plans, aligning federal government responsibilities, and policy efforts. EPA recently issued a request for information to seek stakeholders' views on strengthening the Risk Management Plan (RMP) program by expanding certain safety elements. The EPA chemical accident prevention program, which includes the RMP program, is designed to protect against worst-case scenarios.