

# **Mission and Role of the U.S. Chemical Hazard and Safety Investigation Board (CSB)**

Testimony by

Shakeel H. Kadri, Executive Director & CEO, American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE)<sup>®</sup> Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS)<sup>®</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 presented to the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works

Thank you Chairman Barrasso, ranking member Carper, and Senators for inviting the AIChE's Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) to testify on the mission and role of the U.S. Chemical Hazard and Safety Investigation Board.

First, a little bit about my own background. I am a Chemical Engineer. I have been working for nearly 40 years in industry in implementing a variety of engineering, operations and environment health and process safety projects aimed at reducing and / or eliminating process safety incidents, and environmental impacts. I personally feel very strongly about this issue. In my 40 years journey, I have closely seen benefits we achieve from sound process safety implementation and severe impact from incidents when process safety fails.

My current organization, the Center for Chemical Process Safety<sup>®</sup>, or CCPS, is an Technology Alliance of the AIChE<sup>®</sup>, a 110 year-old non-profit technical organization,

which is working to form a safe, connected, inclusive community. CCPS is funded by corporate members, as well as self funded through conferences, education, etc., as well as through AIChE, especially its Foundation. Established in 1985, in response to the Bhopal Gas Tragedy in Bhopal, India, CCPS and its about 225 corporate members are dedicated to help prevent process safety incidents to improve process safety performance across all industries. Over the past 35 years, we published more than 100 books on the subject of process safety that are used as a good practice guidance reference material.

Our chemical and chemical process industries (CPI) stimulate the economy with high paying jobs and the development of new and innovative materials that enable other U.S. companies and sectors to lead the world in scientific and technological advancement. We are a net exporter of U.S. products. Many of these businesses, however, are dependent on the use of hazardous materials and operate with the daunting challenge of preventing catastrophic accidents. Such accidents, though rare, have severe and far-reaching consequences. Given this rarity, many companies often lack the in-house expertise to self-investigate, and concerns about potential liability inhibit willingness to share lessons learned.

Recognizing these issues, Congress created the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) to provide all chemical users and producers the expertise needed to investigate major accidents and disseminate lessons learned, best practices, and technologies, with the common goal of

minimizing and eliminating catastrophic incidents. AIChE believes that this is a competence that must be maintained and a need that we collectively must continue to address. We urge you to provide and continue funding for the Chemical Safety Board so they may continue to provide this vital service.

CSB has become an effective and important partner for our country's process industries. And, it is these chemical, energy and related companies that are so essential to our nation's continued economic development and competitiveness. We believe that this is a competence that must be maintained and that it is a need we must continue to meet.

CSB has investigated more than 130 major chemical incidents across the country and has issued 841 safety recommendations, 83 percent of which have been closed. The CSB's safety reports, bulletins, and videos are widely used and cited by the industrial community, academia, professional associations, first responders, labor, and community leaders. In fact, the CSB's 68 videos have received 6.4 million views and its YouTube channel has nearly 20,000 followers.

We believe that CSB plays a critical role in keeping Americans safe and in strengthening the performance of our process industries.

## **Shakeel H. Kadri**



As a world leader in process safety, Shakeel Kadri, Executive Director and CEO of the Chemical Process Safety Center [CCPS®], brings nearly 40 years of broad industry experience, with a strong focus on improving process safety. Shakeel came to CCPS in January 2015 as their Executive Director. CCPS is an Industrial Technology Alliance of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers [AIChE]. In nearly 5 years at CCPS, Shakeel has been expanding CCPS globally and driving the CCPS Mission to minimize significant process safety incidents globally.

Before this role, Shakeel spent 36 years at Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. In his most recent role there as Director of Global Process Safety and Risk Management, which he held for twelve years, Shakeel was instrumental in building their global process safety team, raised company's process safety risk awareness and focus globally, revitalized process safety performance measurement culture and developed a strong industry engagement. Prior to this role, Shakeel also held leadership positions in Process Engineering, Technology, Operations, Quality and HSE.

Shakeel is a Fellow of AIChE and a Fellow of CCPS. He is very engaged with the industry and its stakeholder. Shakeel has actively served on process safety committees of the American Chemistry Council, the American Petroleum Institute, the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center, the International Council of Chemicals Associations, the Compressed Gas Association, the European Industrial Gases and Association, and the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers Association.

Shakeel has a BS and MS in Chemical Engineering and an MBA in Finance.