

H₂O Line

City of Grand Prairie

Volume 4, Issue 2

Environmental and Safety Compliance Workshop

Approximately 18,000 injuries and 800 deaths occur annually due to unguarded inadeor quately guarded machinery. Learn how to protect workers from the hazards of moving machine parts by attending the Environmental Quality Compliance Workshop on **April 2010**. Josh Flesher, the Assistant Area Director with the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), will be giving a presentation on Machine Guarding and All About OSHA.

Please make a note of the new location. The workshop will be held in

Prairie Paws Animal Services Center. located at 2222 West Warrior Trail between Great Southwest Parkway and Highway The meeting will be held from 9:30 -11:00 am and will include a continental

the meeting room at the

ARKANSAS CANYON SPRINGS ARROYO SPRINGS SILVERADO W WARRIOR

breakfast.

To register, or for more information, contact Cheri Hebison at 972-237-8070 or chebison@gptx, or fax your registration form 972-237-8228.

Inside this issue: EPA Enforcement: By the **Numbers** Texas Trouble Railroad Commission 3 Won't Issue Moratorium Nuclear Power in Texas 4



How Green Were the Vancouver 2010 Olympics?

winning athletes at the 399 Vancouver 2010 Olympic games were made from South False Creek area recycled materials from and Cheakamus Valley area scrapped electronics. The were made as environmen-Royal Canadian Mint pro-

The medals awarded to duced 615 Olympic and Paralympic

> Paralympic Winter The Olympic villages in the tally sustainable as possi

ble. The roofs of the villages were covered with solar panels and the water used in the buildings was collected in part by rainwater collected on the roof. The buildings were lit mostly with natural lighting





EPA Enforcement FY2009: By the Numbers

In fiscal year (FY) 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency's enforcement and compliance program concluded civil and criminal enforcement actions requiring polluters to invest an estimated \$5.4 billion to reduce pollution, clean up contaminated land and water, achieve compliance and fund environmentally beneficial projects.

Approximately 57% of pollution reductions and 71% of pollution control investments obtained through the Agency's FY 2009 enforcement actions focused on water and air pollution priority problems.

A total of 200 defendants (146 individuals and 54 businesses or corporations) were charged with criminal violations in FY 2009, an increase over the 176 defendants who were charged in FY 2008. The percentage of cases with at least one individual defendant charged (as compared to a business or corporation charged) rose

in FY 2009 to 86 percent, as opposed to 76 percent in FY 2008.

Fines and Restitution

Criminal defendants were assessed a total of \$96 million in fines and restitution in FY 2009, an increase over the \$63.5 million assessed in FY 2008. This included a \$50 million fine assessed against BP Products North America Inc. (BP), the largest criminal fine ever assessed under the Clean Air Act (CAA), after the company pled guilty to a felony violation of the act. BP was prosecuted for conduct that resulted in the fatal explosion on March 23, 2005 at its Texas City, Texas refinery which

Civil Cases	
Referrals of Civil Judicial Enforcement Cases to Department of	277
Justice (DOJ)	
Supplemental Referrals of Civil Judicial Enforcement Cases to	50
DOJ	
Civil Judicial Complaints Filed with Court	168
Civil Judicial Enforcement Case Conclusions	201
Administrative Penalty Order Complaints	1,914
Final Administrative Penalty Orders	1,916
Administrative Compliance Orders	1,588
Cases with Supplemental Environmental Projects	150

Criminal Enforcement	
Environmental Crime Cases Opened	387
Defendants Charged	200
Years of Incarceration	76
Fines and Restitution	\$96,000,000
Value of Court Ordered Environmental Projects	\$10,000,000
Commitments to Reduces, Treat or Eliminate Pollution	4,200,000
(Pounds) (1)	

killed 15 contract workers and injured over 170 others. This was the first prosecution under a section of the CAA enacted to prevent accidental releases that may result in death or serious injury. The provision was passed by Congress in 1990 in response to the explosion at the Union Carbide chemical plant in Bhopal, India that caused thousands of injuries and deaths.

Incarceration

The total level of incarceration served by individuals in FY 2009 was 76 years, an increase over the 57 years assessed in FY 2008. This included the sentencing phase of the Atlantic States Cast Iron and Pipe Company, Inc., prosecution, the longest environmental crimes trial in U.S. history. Four individuals were sentenced to a total of 140 months incarceration (and the company was fined over \$8 million) for their criminal conduct - actions which were tied to worker deaths, injuries and enormous environmental pollution.

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Texas Trouble



A scrap metal recycler in Jasper County was assessed \$5,246 for failing to obtain a scrap tire storage site registration, failing to have an

effective vector control program, failing to label or mark clearly "Used Oil" on containers for storing used oil, and failing to properly store used oil filters.

A chemical manufacturer in Sutton County was assessed \$141,335 for failing to manage industrial solid waste in a manner as to prevent the discharge or threat of discharge into

water in the state, failing to conduct hazardous waste determinations and classifications, failing to notify the TCQ of changes in the management of industrial solid and hazardous waste and the intent to conduct recycling of industrial solid or municipal hazardous waste, failing to complete and correct annual waste summary, failing to comply with the 90 day accumulation time limitation for storing hazardous waste, failing to keep a container holding waste closed during storage, failing to clearly mark a container storing hazardous waste with the date on which the accumulation began, failing to conduct proper tank assessments, provide secondary containment, have an independent qualified installation

inspector or a professional engineer inspect the system, and conduct tank and ancillary tightness testing, and failing to properly complete all manifests for the shipment of hazardous and Class I wastes.

A trucking company in Comal County was assessed \$7,500 for failing to perform initial response actions, including reporting to the TCEQ within 24 hours of confirmation of a release from an above ground storage tank, conduct a release investigation, or identify and mitigate fire, explosive, and vapor hazards.

Railroad Commission Will Not Issue Drilling Moratorium

State Rep. Lon Burnam, D-Fort Worth, requested a one-year cessation on natural gas exploration and production in response to concerns of elevated levels of benzene — a carcinogen. However, the proposed

moratorium on natural gas drilling in Texas has been ruled out by Victor G. Carrillo, chairman of the Railroad Commission. The chairman called the moratorium a "drastic overreaction" and gave job loss of tens of thousands of Texans as one reason for declining the request. "I truly hope the Railroad Commission and the EPA can find common ground on our approach to the issues before us. However, I refuse to irrationally overreact to this situation" Carrillo



said.

Municipalities throughout Texas have also declined to deny drilling permits as a result of the air quality concerns, making the chance of a moratorium even less probable.

Air quality testing was performed outside of the Fort Worth city limits by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Out of 94 sites examined, 21 showed elevated levels of benzene. Two of the 94 sites were emitting levels of benzene that exceeded both the TCEQ's short-term and long-term effects screening levels. However, these levels were a result of human error.

"There's no need for widespread alarm," said toxicology division Di-

rector Michael Honeycutt during a press conference at the TCEQ's regional headquarters in Fort Worth. For the two sites that showed high presences of benzene, "It was essentially someone leaving the valve open. I would hope there's not widespread leaving the valves open, because they're losing lots of money when they do that."

Carrillo said the Railroad Commission is telling oil, gas, and pipeline operators that they need to step up their efforts to ensure they are conducting their business in a safe and environmentally friendly manner. "I'm urging operators to get out there and make sure they double check their operations" he said. "Don't wait for us to come inspect the facility and require you to fix the problem," Carrillo added.

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City of Grand Prairie

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This newsletter is a publication of: Environmental Services Department, Environmental Quality Division Submit your comments /suggestions to:

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Green Olympics (continued Page 1)

to cut back on electricity consumption.

The Olympic villages also captured and reused methane gas given off from a nearby landfill. GE energy star appliances were on every floor. During construction of the village, 67% of the waste generated was recycled or composted.

The City of Grand Prairie is a proud partner of:



Registration Form

Environmental Services Department

City of Grand Prairie

Environmental Compliance Workshop

Machine Guarding and All About OSHA

Prairie Paws Meeting Room

2222 West Warrior Trail

April 28, 2010

9:30 am - 11:00 am

(Continental Breakfast Provided)

Company Name	:
Address: _	
Telephone: _	
Attendees: _	

PLEASE RETURN BY MAIL OR FAX TO:

Environmental Services Department

P.O. Box 534045

Grand Prairie, TX 75053-4045

Fax to: 972.237.8228

Nuclear Power in Texas



According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration 20% of U.S. electricity is generated from nuclear energy. Four of the 104 nuclear reactors in the United States are located in Texas. Currently, nuclear power accounts for about 10% of the electricity market in the state of Texas.

The Three Mile Island disaster in 1979, which was the worst nuclear accident in U.S history, brought a halt to the expansion of the nuclear power program. A recent

announcement by the federal government to provide more than \$8 billion in loan guarantees for two new reactors in Georgia is a significant step to restart the domestic nuclear industry. There are 18 applications currently pending with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for licenses to build and operate at least 25 nuclear reactors. The new generation of nuclear reactors is expected to be significantly safer than the ones that were built in the 1970's through stringent regulations in terms of high quality design and comprehensive monitoring and testing requirements.

In Texas, applications have been filed by Luminant Generation Co. LLC to build two additional units at Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant in Somervell County and by STP Nuclear Operating Co. to build two new advanced reactors in Matagorda County. Exelon Nuclear Texas Holdings LLC is also expected to file an application to build two new reactors in Victoria County soon.

Major advantages of harnessing nuclear energy are that it reduces our dependence on fossil fuels and there are no greenhouse gas emissions. Some disadvantages are that the plants are expensive to build, generate radioactive waste, and accidents could have disastrous consequences.