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Wednesday, Apr. 4, 2007



## Texas Chemical Company Pays \$23.4 Million to Clean Up Toxic Site

By RITA CICERO, Andrews Publications Staff Writer

Houston-based EPEC Polymers Inc. has agreed to a settlement of more than \$23.4 million in connection with the cleanup of a Texas Superfund site contaminated with lead and petrochemicals.

The company will perform the remaining cleanup work at the Turtle Bayou site at an estimated cost of \$13.4 million, according to a consent decree filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.

EPEC will also reimburse the Environmental Protection Agency \$6.9 million for its past expenses and \$3.1 million for the agency's costs incurred after July 31, 2004.

The Turtle Bayou site, also called the Petro-Chemical Systems site, is located in Liberty County, 65 miles northeast of Houston. It was placed on the Superfund list of most contaminated sites in 1984.

The EPA said the property is contaminated with benzene, xylene, toluene, naphthalene, lead and vinyl chloride.

The owners of the site allowed transport companies to dump waste generated by petrochemical and other industries in the Houston area, the agency said.

EPEC's corporate predecessor, Tenneco Chemicals Inc., disposed of wastes generated at its vinyl chloride monomer facility, according to the consent decree.

The state of Texas and the EPA have been cleaning up the contamination at the Turtle Bayou site since 1987.

The U.S. government sued EPEC in 2002 to recover its cleanup costs under the federal Superfund law.

*United States v. EPEC Polymers Inc.*, No. 1:02-0003, *consent decree filed* (E.D. Tex. Mar. 20, 2007).  
[Environmental Litigation Reporter](#)  
 Volume 27, Issue 19  
 04/04/2007

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