FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TCEQ Approves Fines Totaling $1,310,268

Includes Fines Against Valero Refining-Texas L.P. Totaling $700,000

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality today approved penalties totaling $1,310,268 against 58 regulated entities for violations of state environmental regulations. Agreed orders were issued for the following enforcement categories: one agricultural, 14 air quality, two Edwards Aquifer, three licensed irrigator, one multi-media, one municipal solid waste, three municipal waste discharge, one on-site sewage, 16 petroleum storage tank, seven public water system, and two water quality. There were default orders issued for the following categories: one air quality, one industrial hazardous waste, one multi-media, and two public water system. In addition, field citations were issued in two categories: one on-site sewage and one petroleum storage tank violation.

Included in the total fine figure is a penalty of $700,000 against Valero Refining-Texas, L.P. in Harris County for air violations. The agreed order resulted from 16 violations found during investigations in March and April of 2006. Violations include: exceeding emissions limits, failure to properly report emission events, and failure to prevent nuisance conditions.

Penalties totaling $108,750 were levied against Cemex, Inc. in Ector County for air violations when the facility failed to comply with permitted opacity limits on 30 occasions. These violations were discovered during a routine records review conducted in March of 2006.

The TCEQ's next agenda meeting is scheduled for September 6. Agenda items from all commission meetings and work sessions agendas can be viewed at the TCEQ Web site.

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