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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, August 8, 2007

TCEQ Approves Fines Totaling \$421,494

Includes fines in excess of \$100,000 against Valero Refining-Texas L.P.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) today approved penalties totaling \$421,494 against 70 regulated entities for violations of state environmental regulations.

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Agreed orders were issued for the following enforcement categories: 14 air quality, three dry cleaner, one Edwards Aquifer, three field citations, one industrial hazardous waste, one industrial waste discharge, one licensed irrigator, one multi-media, two municipal solid waste, nine municipal waste discharge, 13 petroleum storage tank, and 12 public water system, and two water quality, and one Edwards Aquifer. In addition, there were default orders issued for the following categories: one dry cleaner, one multi-media, one municipal solid waste, and four petroleum storage tank.

Included in the total fine figure is a penalty of \$119,149 against Valero Refining-Texas L.P. in Galveston County. The fines are the result of 12 violations stemming from emissions events in 2006. Of the total, \$59,574 will be used to help local school districts and transit agencies replace or retrofit diesel buses to reduce emissions.

The commission also approved publication of rules pertaining to the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan--which provides incentive grants to retrofit or replace polluting equipment; and the Low Income Vehicle, Repair Assistance, Retrofit, and Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Program--which expands eligibility for grants designed to repair or replace older vehicles. Public hearings on these proposals will be held on September 11 as follows:

Austin—9:30 a.m. at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality complex located at 12100 Park 35 Circle in Building F, Room 2210

Houston—1:30 p.m. at the Houston-Galveston Area Council located at 3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120, Room A

Arlington—1:30 p.m. at the North Central Texas Council of Governments at 616 Six Flags Drive, Centerpoint II, in the Metroplex Conference Room.

The TCEQ's next agenda meeting is scheduled for August 22. Agenda items from all commission meetings and work sessions can be viewed at the TCEQ Web site. The meeting is also webcast live for free, and archived meetings are available, at www.texasadmin.com/cgi-bin/tnrcc.cgi.

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