TCEQ Approves Fines Totaling $1,177,565

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2011 - Fines of $591,798 against Valero Refining-Texas LP of Nueces and Galveston counties, and $141,925 against ConocoPhillips Company of Hutchinson County included

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality today approved penalties totaling $1,177,565 against 66 regulated entities for violations of state environmental regulations.

Agreed orders were issued for the following enforcement categories: one agricultural, eight air quality, three Edwards Aquifer, one industrial or hazardous waste, three industrial waste discharge, two multimedia, two municipal solid waste, seven municipal waste discharge, eleven petroleum storage tank, five public water system, two utilities, two water quality, and one water right.

There were two field citations.

In addition, default orders were issued for the following categories: four irrigation licensing, one municipal solid waste, one onsite sewage facility authorization, four petroleum storage tank, one public water system, and two water quality.

Penalties were also assessed in one industrial waste discharge, one public water system, and one petroleum storage tank case, following hearings at the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

Included in the total was a fine of $591,798 against Valero Refining-Texas LP, Nueces and Galveston counties, for air violations noted in a May 27, 2008-Sept. 3, 2008 emissions event. Of that penalty amount, $295,899 will be contributed to a Supplemental Environmental Project to the Texas PTA Clean School Bus program.

Also included in the total was a fine of $141,925 against ConocoPhillips Company, Hutchinson County, for air quality violations. Of that penalty amount, $70,962 will be contributed to a Supplemental Environmental Project to the Texas PTA Clean School Bus program.

Information on today's agenda items is available for viewing.

The TCEQ's next agenda meeting is scheduled for Nov. 2. Agenda items from all commission meetings and work session agendas can be viewed on the TCEQ website. The meeting is also webcast live for free, and archived meetings are available at TexasAdMin.com.