

My name is Jay Willmore of Willmore Manufacturing.

I am here because my company is a named defendant in the RID action.

My company does not use any of the contaminants named in the action, we manufacture stainless steel accessories for light duty trucks.

Our process includes cutting and bending steel.

This has been a particularly tough couple of years for us because we depend on truck sales for our business, which has been very depressed with the economic conditions. All of our competitors have taken their manufacturing to China to save money. I have resisted because of my pride in manufacturing my parts in the USA and my loyalty to my employees, many of whom have been with the company for 16 years.

In 2009 we had to lay off over 25 employees which was very difficult for all of us. We now employ about 23 full time employees.

We feel encouraged by the first 2 months of 2010, we are trying to rebuild.

This has been difficult on my family because Willmore is a family business that has been in existence for more than 21 years. We are not rich by any means and we have survived the last years by watching every penny.

That leads me to why I think we were named in this lawsuit. In 1995 we were a struggling company that had outgrown the rental space we were in. A real estate agent came to me about a building that we are in now at 3030 N 30th Avenue, he told me we could buy the building for a good price because in his words there was a "cloud on the title" related to some ground water issues from previous owners but he said it would

be cleared up. We liked the building so with the help of a local attorney we structured a purchase from the owner.

We structured the purchase to lease the building until we received the closure letter from the ADEQ which we received in December 1999, we were then able to borrow the money to complete the purchase.

During the time we were leasing the building the monitoring wells located on the property were being monitored every month.

Recently we did another Phase 1 on the building which shows our building to be outside both plumes. We also applied to the State and we were allowed to cap and concrete the monitoring wells in.

Personally this has been devastating, I am 65 and was set to retire in May. I had entered into an agreement to turn the business over to a much younger associate who was going to pay me a monthly income. Of course that has now become history.

I have been asked what will happen to Willmore if the RID ERA is allowed to go forward. First, the attorney fees will become a hardship and if RID obtains a judgment we will have no other choice but to close shop and file for bankruptcy putting 23 people out of a job.

Thank you,