

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23 Companies to Pay Total of \$542,000 to Resolve Hazardous Waste Dump Claims in Tucson's Pantano Wash From 1945 until Early 1970s

PHOENIX (Nov. 10, 2010) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Attorney General's Office announced today that they have reached settlements with 23 companies to pay a total of \$542,000 to resolve hazardous waste dumping claims in the area of Tucson's Broadway Pantano Landfill from 1945 through the early 1970s.

The money will be used to fund further cleanup work at the state Superfund site, known as the Broadway Pantano Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) site. ADEQ is currently continuing its investigation to determine the best way to clean up the site and identify additional responsible parties.

The companies and settlements are General Dynamics Corp. \$150,750, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co./Lockheed Martin Corp. \$90,750, Tucson Dodge Inc. \$66,000, Textron Inc./ABB, Inc./Combustion Engineering, Inc. and R.E. Darling Co. Inc. \$30,000 each, Holmes Tuttle Ford, Inc. and Pima County Community College \$24,000 each, and Texas Instruments Inc. \$16,500.

In addition, 12 companies will pay settlements of \$10,000 – Ashton Co. Inc., Baldor Electric Co., Don Mackey Oldsmobile-Cadillac Inc., Dunn Edwards Corp., Durodyne Inc., Fersha Corp., Fluor Enterprises Inc., Industrial Pipe Fittings LLC/Tucson Foundry & Manufacturing Inc. (the two will pay a combined total of \$10,000), Rowe Enterprises Inc., Rollings Corp., and Warner Propeller & Governor Corp., LLC.

Tucson resident Ernest Joseph "Joe" Blankenship, 80, a retired salvager, testified to state and federal investigators in 2009 that he disposed of spent solvents from dozens of companies for decades in landfills along Pantano Wash, located six miles east of downtown Tucson, from shortly after the end of World War II until the early 1970s.

The contaminants of concern are trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (PCE), and methylene chloride. All are solvents also used as ingredients in various industrial processes. Those who drink water with elevated levels of TCE and PCE over many years may have an increased risk of cancer and experience liver problems. Continued exposure to methylene chloride may cause eye and respiratory tract irritation and skin exposure may cause irritation or chemical burns.

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"This is good news for Tucson area ground water. We hope this fair share settlement becomes a model for others to step up and pay for cleaning up our precious water supplies instead of paying for litigation," said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles.

Attorney General Terry Goddard also welcomed the initial round of settlements.

"Any companies handling industrial solvents need to rigorously comply with state standards to protect the health of our citizens and our environment," Goddard said. "It's also good to see a positive resolution for many of these hazardous waste cases that date back 65 years."

The complaints were filed under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) law in federal district court in Tucson, Ariz. Following public posting of the settlements and a 30-day public comment period, the parties will request the court to approve the settlements.

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