



NEWS RELEASE

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Our Children's Earth Foundation
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San Francisco, CA—Our Children's Earth Foundation (OCE) filed a petition yesterday in the federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals challenging a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ruling in March on the air permit for the Tesoro Refinery in Martinez.

OCE contends that EPA's ruling was inadequate to protect the environment and public health from refinery pollution, and asks the court to review the decision.

In the March 15th ruling, EPA sided with OCE saying that refineries should improve compliance schedules, monitoring and other technical issues in the permits. OCE believes, however, that EPA still allowed the permits to omit requirements that would assure regulators the ability to monitor and reduce pollution with the best available control technology.

According to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, it has recently fined Tesoro \$800,000 for 75 past violations. In addition, the District's Hearing Board issued a conditional order of abatement for four separate incidents of releases of pollution over an 18-month period from Tesoro's coker unit.

"While the EPA required some progress in March," said Tiffany Schauer, executive director of Our Children's Earth, "we need a permit that will go further to protect Bay area residents and the overall environmental quality."

Title V of the federal Clean Air Act requires polluting industries, including refineries, to self-monitor their pollution, and document accidents and flares, so that the public can be aware of the companies' actions. The air district issues operating permits that set emission limits for each refinery.

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