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## Remaining Parties in Louisiana Action Reach Settlement Agreement

NEW ORLEANS -- The remaining parties in a Louisiana benzene case have reached a settlement agreement, according to court documents recently filed in federal court. *Washington, et al. v. Baker Petrolite Corp., et al.*, No. 09-7926 (E.D. La.).

On May 9, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana issued an order of dismissal, dismissing the claims asserted against ExxonMobil Oil Corp. and Exxon Mobil Corp.

The court further ordered that "all pending motions are dismissed as moot."

The complaint was filed by Charles Washington and his wife, Lynette Buggage Washington. The plaintiffs allege that Charles Washington's employment as a laborer and operator for nearly 30 years required him to work with benzene-containing products. The complaint specifically names AntiFoam Toluene Tote 500, Aerokroil, Kanokroil and Zep 2000 Heavy Duty Cleaner as products with which Washington worked.

In March, the federal court also dismissed claims as they were asserted against El Paso E&P Co., LP; El Paso Energy E.S.T. Co.; El Paso Energy International Co.; El Paso Energy Service Co.; El Paso Metro Gas Co.; and Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co.

Counsel for the plaintiffs is L. Eric Williams Jr. of the Williams Law Office in Metairie, La.

The defendants are represented by Gary A. Bezet, Barrye Panepinto Miyagi, Gayla M. Moncla, Robert E. Dille, Gregory M. Anding, Carol L. Galloway, Allison Benoit, Janice M. Culotta and Vionne M. Douglas of Kean, Miller, Hawthorne, D'Armond, McCowan & Jarman in Baton Rouge, La.

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