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Louisiana Benzene Plaintiffs Reach Settlement Agreements with Shell Defendants, Valero

NEW ORLEANS –– Louisiana benzene plaintiffs have reached a compromise with Shell Oil Co., Shell Chemical LP and Valero Refining-New Orleans LLC, according to a recent order dismissing claims against the defendants.

The May 23 order from the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana dismissed the claims against the named defendants with prejudice. The plaintiffs had moved for dismissal in a joint motion filed on May 21.

The court's order noted that the claims against all other defendants remain.

Thomas and Johnnie Dykes contend in their complaint that Thomas Dykes worked as a crane operator and equipment operator on new construction sites. Dykes identifies a number of the products that he believes caused him to develop myelodysplastic syndrome, pointing to a number of items specific to each defendant, including crude oil condensate, diesel, kerosene and 100 Solvent Neutral.

The plaintiffs recently filed a second amended complaint, in which they acquiesced to the District Court's request to provide dates of employment as well as to specifically identify products.

Counsel for the plaintiffs are Lynn Eric Williams of Williams Law Office in Metairie, La.; and Richard J. Fernandez and Amber E. Cisney of Law Offices of Richard J. Fernandez in Metairie, La.

Dykes, et al. v. Shell Oil Co., et al., No. 13-4934 (E.D. La.).

Documents are Available Call (800) 496-4319 or Search www.harrismartin.com Motion Ref# BEN-1405-11 Order Ref# BEN-1405-12

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