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## Parties in Louisiana Benzene Case Involving Gasoline Reach Settlement Agreement

NEW ORLEANS — The parties remaining in a case involving claims that exposure to benzene-containing gasoline caused chronic lymphocytic leukemia have reached a settlement agreement, according to recent court documents.

In a July 16 order, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana dismissed the case, noting that it had been advised that “all of the parties to this action have firmly agreed upon a compromise.”

The underlying case involved the claims asserted by Henry and Elizabeth Vicknair. The plaintiffs alleged that Henry’s work as a contract tank cleaner for Louisiana Tank Cleaning Service at Shell Oil and Shell Chemical required him to clean tanks with benzene, gasoline and diesel.

“He was regularly exposed to benzene during this period,” the complaint asserted. “...From 1969 to 1978, he would regularly come into contact with benzene or through gasoline while loading gasoline tank trucks at the Shell Oil Norco facility and unloading at various locations.”

The plaintiffs said that as a result of the exposure, Vicknair developed chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

Prior to the settlement agreement, the plaintiffs had moved for partial summary judgment on the issue that Shell knew of the dangers regarding benzene exposure.

The plaintiffs are represented by Eric Williams of the Williams Law Office in Metairie, La.

Vicknair, et al. v. Shell Oil Co., et al., No. 15-00053 (E.D. La.).

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