



Spotlight On Justice



BP TEXAS CITY REFINERY EXPLOSION - A SLAP ON THE WRIST?

On March 23, 2005, an horrendous explosion at a Texas City Refinery owned by BP Products North America, killed 15 workers and injured several hundred more.

The company has negotiated a plea agreement with the Bush Justice Department on felony environmental crimes that led to this explosion. The company would plead guilty and pay a \$50 million fine.

This is a mere fraction of the "base" fine in the range of \$1 billion as suggested by U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, and is a tiny fraction of the profit made by BP on its operation of the Texas City plant over the 14-month period preceding the explosion.

Blast victims and public safety advocates oppose the BP plea bargain as much too lenient, characterizing it as a mere slap on the wrist for criminal behavior that merits severe penalties. The judge will decide on February 4, 2007.



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