



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO

GOVERNOR

MIKE D. McDANIEL, Ph.D.

SECRETARY

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Contact: Rodney Mallett

Telephone: 225.219.3964

Judge signs Marine Shale settlements

BATON ROUGE -- U.S. District Court Judge Adrian Duplantier recently signed two settlements that officially end a 17-year-old federal lawsuit brought by the United States and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality against Marine Shale Processors. By signing the settlements, DEQ and EPA can move forward with cleaning substances left behind at a hazardous waste facility in Amelia owned by Marine Shale.

The settlement with Marine Shale and its sister corporation, Recycling Park, assesses civil penalties against the defendants of \$6.2 million. Additionally, DEQ will be paid more than \$6.2 million from funds in the court registry for clean up at the site. An additional \$850,000 letter of credit posted by Marine Shale will also be transferred to DEQ and used for the cleanup of the Marine Shale facility. The DEQ does not expect that will be sufficient for a full remediation and will pursue other responsible parties for the remainder of the costs.

The other settlement, a consent decree with former Marine Shale customer Southern Wood Piedmont Co. and its parent company, Rayonier, requires Southern Wood to address ash left at the Recycling Park site. The large piles of incinerator ash located at this site will be consolidated, leveled and capped at an estimated cost of \$1.6 million. Southern Wood will also pay another \$200,000 to the U.S. and DEQ as reimbursement for costs at the sites.

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