

BRYAN, TEXAS CHEMICAL EXPOSURE LITIGATION
1920 L STREET, N.W., SUITE 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

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For Release
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Contact: Andrew Novak
202-686-4111

Class Action Settlement with Elf Atochem Preliminarily Approved

Individuals who lived or worked in Bryan between January 1, 1973 and April 10, 1995, or who owned property there between January 1, 1992 and April 10, 1995, should watch their Sunday newspapers for information about a \$41.4 million proposed class action settlement that was preliminarily approved in the lawsuit, *Lillian Hayden, et al. vs. Elf Atochem North America, Inc., et al.* A comprehensive notice program to advise affected individuals of the proposed settlement and their legal rights will be launched September 7 by order of the Honorable Lynn N. Hughes of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. The proposed settlement covers persons who lived or worked, or were *in utero* while their mother lived or worked, within defined areas surrounding the chemical plant at 201 West Dodge Street in Bryan.

Individuals can obtain the full notice package, including maps of the class area, and claim form by writing to Settlement Administrator, P.O. Box 1583, Faribault, MN 55021-1583, calling the toll-free help line at 1-877-874-5786, or visiting online at: www.bryantexasclassaction.com.

Plaintiffs allege that in the course of manufacturing various products at the plant, the defendants improperly released arsenic and other hazardous substances into the air, soil, surface water and groundwater of the community. These substances are alleged to have caused personal injuries such as cancer and birth defects, as well loss of property value. Defendant Elf Atochem North America, Inc., whose name recently was changed to ATOFINA Chemicals, Inc., denies any wrongdoing or legal liability.

On August 31, 2000 Judge Hughes approved a notice program designed to alert class members to the proposed settlement. Notice will be found in daily and weekly newspapers, as well as in television spots and on the Internet. Additionally, the full notice package will be mailed beginning September 7 to approximately 15,000 individuals who responded to a 1995 notice program in the case. Judge Hughes has scheduled an October 30 fairness hearing in Houston to determine whether the settlement should be given final approval.

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