

## TEXAS EXPLOSIONS AND RELEASES SINCE 1975

05/13/75	Dow Chemical gas line explosion, Devers, 4 deaths	†††††
02/22/76	Goodpasture grain elevation explosion, Galena Park, 9 deaths, 25+ injured	††††††††††††
02/25/76	Mid-America Pipe Line fire and explosion, Whitharral, 5 deaths	†††††††
12/07/76	Exxon Gas System pipeline explosion/fire, Robstown, 1 death, 2 injured	†
03/17/77	Texaco Refinery explosion, Port Arthur, 7 deaths, 24 injured	†††††††††
12/27/77	Farmer's Export grain elevator explosion, Galveston, 18 deaths	††††††††††††††††††††††††
10/24/78	JA gas pipeline explosion, Brookside Village, 5 deaths, 43 injured	†††††††
08/21/79	Cities Service pipeline explosion, Orange, 1 death, 1 injured	†
09/01/79	Chevron tanker explosion, Deer Park, 3 deaths, 13 injured	††††
03/24/80	Pennzoil drilling rig explosion, near Galveston, 6 deaths, 29 injured	††††††††
08/30/80	Ocean Drilling oil rig explosion, near Port O'Connor, 2 deaths, 7 injured	†††
04/00/81	Independent Refining explosion, Winnie, 1 death, 1 injured	†
04/08/81	Producers Grain Co-Op grain elevator explosion, Corpus Christi, 9 deaths	†††††††††††
09/27/81	Chaparral Pipeline explosion and fire, Ackerly, 4 deaths	†††††††
10/13/81	Dow Chemical explosion, Freeport, 6 deaths	†††††††††
10/13/81	Warren Petroleum explosion, Mont Belvieu, 2 deaths	††††††††
05/18/82	Shore Company oil refinery explosion, Kilgore, 2 deaths, 2 injured	†††
03/15/83	Mid-America Pipeline explosion, Odessa, 5 deaths, 5 injured	††††††††
01/18/85	Peterson Drilling oil tank explosion, Jean, 2 deaths	†††
05/29/85	Lone Star ice plant explosion, San Antonio, 4 deaths, 21+ injured	†††††
10/30/87	Marathon Petroleum hydrofluoric acid release, Texas City, 4,000 evacuated, over 1,000 persons treated at area hospitals	
11/14/87	Hoechst Celanese fire and explosion, Pampa, 3 deaths	††††
08/24/89	Phillips Petroleum fire and explosion, Pasadena, 2 deaths, 3 injured	†††
10/23/89	Phillips Petroleum fire and explosion, Pasadena, 23 deaths, 100+ injured	††††††††††††††††††††††††
06/08/90	Phillips Petroleum fire and explosion, Pasadena, 5 injured	††††††††††††††††††††††††
07/05/90	Arco Chemical explosion, Channelview, 17 deaths	††††††††††††††††††††††††
03/07/91	Phillips Petroleum fire and explosion, Lefors, 5 injured	
04/13/91	Phillips refinery explosion, Old Ocean, 2 injured	†††††
04/07/92	Seminole gas pipeline explosion, Brenham, 3 deaths	
07/23/92	Phillips Petroleum propylene release, Pasadena	††††††††††††††††††††††††
01/09/93	Phillips Petroleum flash fire, Pasadena, 1 severely burned	††††††††††††††††††††††††
12/01/95	Shell Oil tank farm explosion/fire, McCamey, 2 deaths, 3 injured	††††††††††††††††††††††††
04/01/96	Diamond Shamrock refinery explosion, Dumas, 1 death	††††††††††††††††††††††††
08/24/96	Koch Pipeline fire and explosion, Lively, 2 deaths	††††††††††††††††††††††††
12/22/96	Wyman Gordon Forging explosion, Houston, 8 deaths, 2 injured	††††††††††††††††††††††††

06/22/97	Shell Chemical fire and explosion, Deer Park, 30+ injured	
00/00/98	Valero refinery hydrogen sulfide incident, Texas City, 1 death	†
05/07/99	Lyondell-Citgo Refining fire and explosion, Houston, 1 injured	
06/23/99	Phillips Petroleum fire and explosion, Pasadena, 2 deaths, 4 injured	††
08/01/99	Phillips Petroleum fire, Pasadena	
03/09/00	Explorer Pipeline release, Greenville	
03/27/00	Phillips Petroleum explosion, Pasadena, 1 death, 4 severely burned	†
12/16/00	Huntsman Corp. Oxides explosion, Port Arthur	
01/03/01	Premcor Refining Group fire, Port Arthur, 1 injured	
07/09/01	Ultramar Diamond Shamrock fire and explosion, Three Rivers, 4 injured	
02/11/02	ExxonMobil chemical upset, Beaumont	
05/01/02	Third Coast Industries fire, Brazoria County	
07/24/02	Motiva Enterprises fire, Port Arthur	
01/13/03	BLSR Operating Ltd. fire, Rosharon, 4 deaths, 4 seriously burned	††††
01/31/03	ExxonMobil fire, Beaumont, 2 injured	
05/20/03	Sunoco Logistics pipeline rupture, Nederland	
05/27/03	Houston Pipe Line fire, Woodville	
08/18/04	Duke Energy natural gas storage facility explosion and fire, Moss Bluff	
09/02/04	BP Refinery explosion, Texas City, 2 deaths	††
09/13/04	Sunoco Logistics fire, Nederland	
12/03/04	Marcus Oil and Chemical explosion, Houston, 2 injured	
03/23/05	BP refinery explosion, Texas City, 15 deaths, 100+ injured	††††††††††††††††
04/15/05	South Hampton Refining fire, Hardin County	
07/28/05	Valley Solvents & Chemicals fire and explosion, Fort Worth, 4 injured	
10/06/05	Formosa Plastics fire and explosion, Point Comfort, 16 injured	
04/20/06	Huntsman Corp. fire, Port Arthur	
07/22/06	BP refinery incident, Texas City, 1 death	†
09/26/06	Bayer Material Science explosion, Baytown, 21 injured	
10/04/06	Valero Energy Corp. sulfur dioxide release, 67 injured	
11/19/06	PRSI fire and explosion, Pasadena, 35+ injured	
02/16/07	Valero McKee Refinery fire and explosion, Sunray, 19 injured	
03/12/07	Conoco Phillips gas well and pipeline explosion, Lake Weatherford	†
05/25/07	Exterran Energy natural gas processing plant, Hood County, 1 death	†
06/05/07	BP refinery incident, Texas City, 1 death	
07/25/07	Southwest Industrial Gases explosion, Dallas, 3 injured	
01/14/08	BP refinery incident, Texas City, 1 death	†
02/15/08	Hesco pipeline explosion/fire, McCook	
02/18/08	Alon refinery explosion, Big Spring, 4 injured	
04/24/08	MEMC chemical release, Pasadena, 30+ injured	

06/11/08	Goodyear Chemical plant explosion, Houston, 1 death, 6 injured	†
08/28/08	Oasis natural gas explosion, Austin	
11/20/08	Delek oil refinery fire/explosion, Tyler, 2 deaths, 3 injured	††
02/19/09	Flint Hills refinery fire, Corpus Christi, 2 injured	
07/19/09	Citigo Petroleum fire/explosion/release, Corpus Christi, 2 injured	
08/04/09	El Dorado Chemical explosion, Bryan, thousands evacuated, 34 people treated at area hospitals	
11/05/09	El Paso Natural Gas pipeline explosion, Bushland, residents evacuated, 3 injured	
12/04/09	Valero refinery explosion, Texas City, 1 death, 2 injured	†
12/08/09	Motiva plant fire/explosion, Port Arthur	
12/09/09	American Acryl plant explosion, Seabrook, 2 injured	
04/06/10	BP refinery, 40 day release of toxic chemicals, Texas City	
04/19/10	Motiva refinery incident, Port Arthur, 1 death	†
05/05/10	AGE Refinery fire and explosion, San Antonio, 2 injured	
05/17/10	LyondellBasell refinery fire, Houston, 9 injured	
06/07/10	North Texas Pipeline explosion, Cleburne, 1 death, 8 injured	†
06/09/10	DCP Midstream pipeline explosion, Darrouzett, 2 deaths, 3 injured	††
07/28/10	Energy Transfer pipeline explosion, near Sealy, residents evacuated	††

## 211 DEATHS

## 1,717+ INJURED



U.S. CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

# INVESTIGATION REPORT

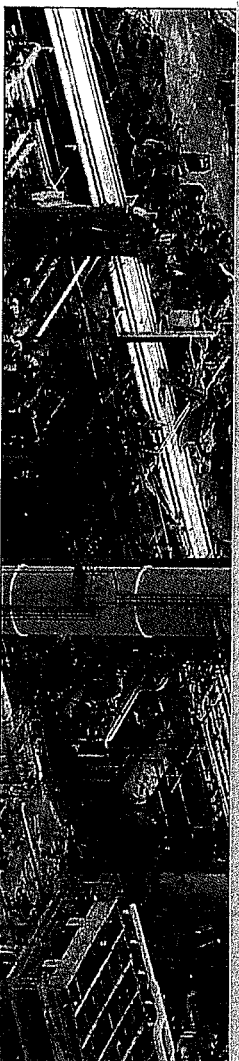
## REFINERY EXPLOSION AND FIRE

(15 Killed, 180 Injured)



The Texas City disaster was caused by organizational and safety deficiencies at all levels of the BP Corporation. Warning signs of a possible disaster were present for several years, but company officials did not intervene effectively to prevent it. The extent of the serious safety culture deficiencies was further revealed when the refinery experienced two additional serious incidents just a few months after the March 2005 disaster.

Simply targeting the mistakes of BP's operators and supervisors misses the underlying and significant cultural, human factors, and organizational causes of the disaster that have a greater preventative impact.



# BP pleads guilty to felony

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## Source: BP to pay \$50 million in blast case

By TOM FOWLER and KRISTEN HAYS Houston Chronicle Copyright 2007  
Oct. 26, 2007, 10:23AM

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BP has agreed to plead guilty to a felony and pay \$50 million to settle criminal allegations stemming from the March, 2005 explosion at its Texas City refinery that killed 15 people and injured many more.

The London-based oil giant also will pay \$303 million to settle unrelated charges that it manipulated the price of propane three years ago.

October 2, 2007

Criminal charges in the propane case may be filed against as many as four individual traders later this week in Chicago, according to sources familiar with that case. One trader, Dennis Abbott, pleaded guilty previously and is expected to serve some jail time.

BP also declined comment on that case but has said previously it did not believe its traders broke the law. Officials with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission also declined comment.

The agreements to resolve the probes come about six months after Tony Hayward replaced John Browne as BP's CEO. Hayward, who had run BP's exploration and production division, told the Chronicle in June that he is committed to improving safety and performance, which came under attack during the last few years of Browne's

# Deterrence is dead - BP's false promises after guilty plea



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## OSHA punishes BP over safety

### Regulators cite lack of upgrades since fatal Texas City blast and more violations

By TOM FOWLER  
HOUSTON CHRONICLE  
Oct. 31, 2009, 7:38AM

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More than four years after an explosion at its Texas City refinery killed 15 workers, BP still hasn't made required safety upgrades, has committed new safety violations and should pay a record \$87 million in fines, federal regulators said Friday.

BP's parent oil giant said it will contest the allegations and that it has met the terms of a previous settlement agreement involving the 2005 blast. In unveiling the proposed fines, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration said the

**More than four years after an explosion at its Texas City refinery killed 15 workers, BP still hasn't made required safety upgrades, has committed new safety violations and should pay a record \$87 million in fines, federal regulators said Friday.**

**439 new "willful" safety violations cited by OSHA**

**October 31, 2009**

• **January 2007:** A panel chaired by former Secretary of State James A. Baker III issues a report identifying numerous systemic process safety issues at BP U.S. refineries, including Texas City.

• **March 2007:** The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board reports that a combination of cost-cutting, a lack of

more, occurred after a piece of equipment called a blowdown drum overfilled with flammable liquid hydrocarbons. The excess liquid and vapors were vented and ignited. Alarms and gauges that were supposed to warn of the overfilled equipment did not work properly. Under its 2005 settlement with OSHA, BP committed to pay \$21 million and agreed to fix safety problems and comply with the law. In a separate settlement with the Department of Justice, BP pleaded guilty to one violation of the federal Clean Air Act, agreed

# OSHA Citations to U.S. Refineries June 2007 - February 2010

BP      Other Refineries

**Egregious Willful Citations**      760      1

Issued for each instance of a willful and flagrant violation

**Willful Citations**      69      22

Issued for violations with intentional disregard for employee safety and health

The Center for Public Integrity - May 16, 2010



## BP "Safety" Quotes

- "Texas City is not a safe place to work."
- "TSC kills someone in the next 12 months" (sent 8 days before 2005 explosion).
- "BP for the most part has a serious blindness about the management of major hazards."
- "Culture of casual compliance."
- "Working on a unit that is falling apart before my very eyes."
- "Yes, this company deliberately put my life in danger to try and save a buck. This has happened more than once, but the company almost cost me my life this time."
- "Until you tell me I could go to jail, I won't change anything as long as the paper covers us."
- "There are senior managers who have allowed the site to accept a completely inappropriate amount and level of risk, who have allowed criminal levels to non-compliance."



## BP "Safety" record

### 2001

January 2001—BP paid \$10 million to resolve allegations it violated the Clean Air Act at 8 of its refineries  
February 2001—Minerals Management Service ("MMS") fined BP \$20,000 for workplace violations resulting in serious injury to an employee  
August 2001—Worker killed at BP Texas City refinery  
September 2001—Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") fines BP \$141,000 after an explosion killed three workers at BP's Clanton Road facility  
**YEARLY PROFIT: \$12,379,000,000**

### 2002

January 2002—MMS fined BP \$20,000 for a safety violation  
May 2002—MMS fined BP \$23,000 for a workplace safety violation that resulted in a worker having his hand injured from an electrical shock  
May 2002—Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation required BP to pay a \$150,000 fine for pipeline leaks  
September 2002—MMS fined BP \$39,000 for missing 13 monthly tests of an oil low level sensor  
**YEARLY PROFIT: \$12,379,000,000**

### 2003

January 2003—BP fined \$70,000 by MMS for a faulty fire water system  
January 2003—BP fined \$80,000 by MMS for bypassing pressure safety relays  
July 2003—MMS fined BP \$20,000 because a subsurface safety valve was blocked out of service  
**YEARLY PROFIT: \$16,413,000,000**

## BP "Safety" record (cont.)

### 2004

February 2004—MMS fined BP \$25,000 because they had bypassed the oil rigs gas detections systems  
March 2004—Explosion at the UU4 unit at BP Texas City  
May 2004—Worker falls to his death inside a tank at BP Texas City  
July 2004—MMS fined BP \$190,000 for safety violations that resulted in a fire.  
September 2004—Two workers are killed and a third is severely injured during a steam release at BP Texas City  
**YEARLY PROFIT: \$17,262,000,000**

### 2005

March 2005—15 people are killed in an explosion at BP Oil Refinery in Texas City  
May 2005—Worker dies at BP Cherry Point Refinery  
July 2005—Explosion and fire at BP Texas City  
September 2005—OSHA cited BP for 296 egregious willful violations associated with the March 23, 2005 explosion and fined BP \$21 million dollars  
**YEARLY PROFIT: \$22,632,000,000**

### 2006

April 2006—OSHA fines BP \$2.4 million for safety violations at the Toledo, Ohio refinery  
October 2006—MMS fined BP \$25,000 because operations were not performed in a safe and workmanlike manner  
February 2006—Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ") fined BP \$130,625 for unlawful releases of harmful pollutants at its Texas City refinery  
March 2006—Major oil leak in Prudhoe Bay Alaska from a corroded pipelines operated by BP  
July 2006—Worker dies at BP Texas City refinery  
**YEARLY PROFIT: \$22,286,000,000**

## BP “Safety” record (cont.)

### 2007

March 2007—US Chemical Safety & Hazard Board concluded that the Texas City disaster was caused by organization and safety deficiencies at all levels of the BP Corporation

April 2007—Chemical release at BP Texas City

June 2007—Worker dies by electrocution at BP Texas City.

August 2007—Diver killed at BP Cherry Point Refinery

October 2007—BP agreed to pay a \$50 million fine and plead guilty to a felony violation of the Clean Air Act and will serve three years of probation for the Texas City refinery explosion

October 2007—MMS fined BP \$41,000 for various safety violations

October 2007—BP pled guilty to a criminal violation of the Clean Water Act and paid a \$20 million fine related to two separate oil spills that occurred in the North Slope in March and August of 2006

**YEARLY PROFIT: \$18,370,000,000**

### 2008

January 2008—BP employee dies BP Texas City

**YEARLY PROFIT: \$25,593,000,000**

## BP “Safety” record (cont.)

### 2009

April 2009—Whistleblower files lawsuit against BP for breaking federal laws and violating their own internal procedures by failing to maintain crucial safety and engineering documents related to the Atlantis Deepwater Drilling rig

October 2009—OSHA fines BP an additional \$87 million dollars for their failure to abate the violations from the March 23, 2005 explosion

December 2009—Texas jury returned a \$100 million award against BP on behalf of workers injured in a 2007 chemical release

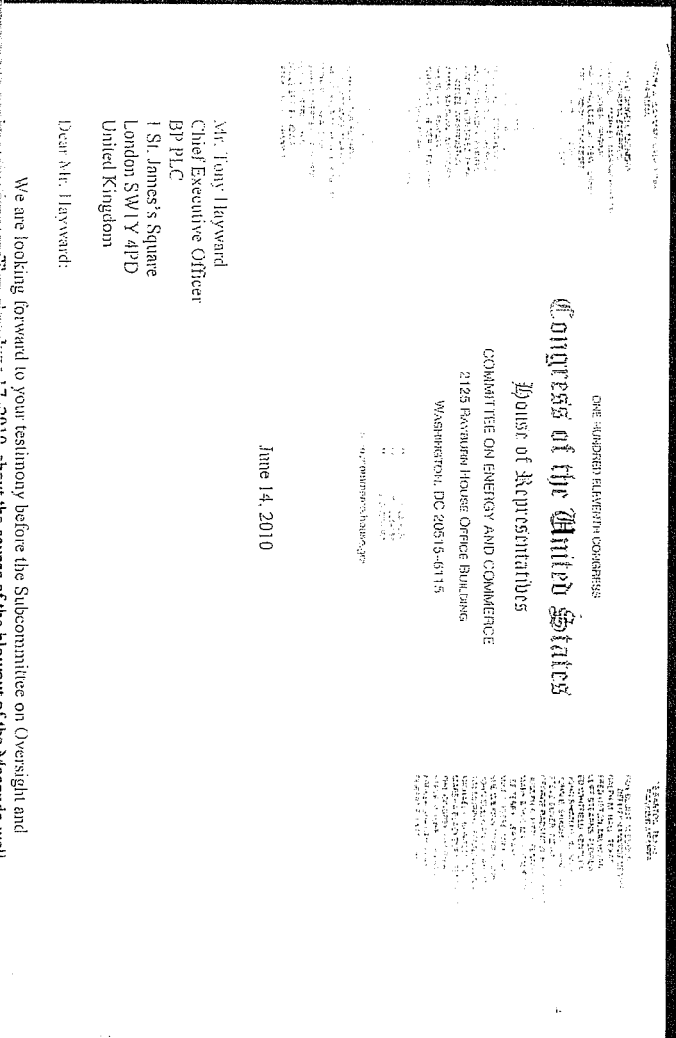
**YEARLY PROFIT: \$13,995,000,000**

### 2010

April 2010—OSHA fines BP \$2 million for willful safety violations at the Toledo Ohio refinery.

April 2010—Explosion and fire destroys BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Rig, releasing millions of gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico

# 2010 Deepwater Horizon safety criticisms



**“The Committee’s investigation is raising serious questions about the decisions made by BP in the days and hours before the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon....**

**BP appears to have made multiple decisions for economic reasons that increased the danger of a catastrophic well failure. In several instances, these decisions appear to violate industry guidelines and were made despite warnings from BP’s own personnel and its contractors. In effect, it appears that BP repeatedly chose risky procedures in order to reduce costs and save time and made minimal efforts to contain the added risk.”**

## **BP TEXAS CITY - DEEPWATER HORIZON CATASTROPHIC SIMILARITIES**

- Early indicators of problems ignored
- Safety alarms ignored
- Safety devices failed
- Continued operations despite unsafe conditions
- Continued operations taking precedence over maintenance
- Failing to have shutoff/interlocks to stop process when unsafe conditions arose
- Used procedures and equipment designed to cut cost and save time, but which increased risk
- Violated industry standards
- Violated federal regulations





34 Comments

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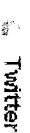
## It's time for BP to sell its Texas City refinery

BY LOREN STEFFY Copyright 2010 Houston Chronicle  
Aug. 12, 2010, 10:58PM

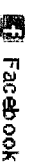
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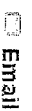
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The cloud has hung over Texas City for far too long.

I'm not talking about the cloud of cancerous benzene and other contaminants that BP released for a month this spring even as the Deepwater Horizon was burning and sinking in the Gulf of Mexico. I'm talking about the cloud of BP's mismanagement, which continues to dog the company's refinery despite its promises to improve.

Given that BP is selling off assets to help fund the oil cleanup in the Gulf, why not put its refineries on the block?

After all, the Texas City refinery has been more bare than bon since BP acquired it in the 1998 Amoco merger. BP repeatedly cut

And then there's the latest release of toxic fumes. On Tuesday, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott sued BP for illegally emitting 500,000 pounds of benzene, including the aforementioned benzene, after a fire on April 6. Rather than shutting the leaking unit down, BP allowed the release to continue for 40 days, the state said. BP could be facing millions more in state fines.

### 40 days of leaks

And then there's the latest release of toxic fumes. On Tuesday, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott sued BP for

The state's lawsuit mentions 39 other instances of pollution at the refinery, establishing what the attorney general's office said is a pattern of bad practices and repeated violations.

Instances of pollution at the refinery, establishing what the attorney general's office said is a pattern of bad practices and repeated violations. It calls to mind the warning from the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board five years ago that BP's problems are systemic.

On top of all that, plaintiffs' lawyers have filed a \$10 billion lawsuit that seeks class-action status. A chance for Texas City area residents to sign on to it drew a standing-room-only crowd last week.

## Editorial

Sept. 17, 2007, 9:11PM

### Reckless abandon

Biased Texas Supreme Court ruling lets companies avoid liability for negligence or injuries to workers.

Copyright 2007 Houston Chronicle

The Texas Supreme Court, in an earlier era, looked kindly on the plaintiff's lawyers who financed the

justices' election campaigns. These days the court has a well-earned reputation for ruling in favor of the wealthy insurance companies and other corporations that generously underwrite the justices' re-elections.

If further proof of this propensity were needed, Justice Don Willett provided it in his opinion for

the unanimous court in the case of Entergy Gulf States, Inc., v. John Summers. In order to side with big business, the opinion offends not only the law, but also court precedent, legislative intent, reason, custom and common notions of justice.

The facts of the case are uncompllicated. Summers worked for a contractor, International Maintenance Corp., and was injured while performing maintenance at Entergy's Sabine Station plant. Summers sued Entergy for damages, alleging negligence.

Willett's opinion, dismissing Summer's case before trial, says it relies upon the plain meaning of the law, but it does not furnish any of that meaning. Perhaps the omission owes to the likelihood that the law's wording would not readily support the court's assertions. The opinion overruled the Ninth Court of Appeals, which had found the plain meaning of the law to mean precisely the opposite of Willett's conclusion.

Texas law shields contractors and subcontractors who provide their employees with workers' compensation insurance from further liability for workplace injuries. In its ruling, the court found that a plant owner can call itself a contractor, even if it has no contract with itself to perform any work.

The Ninth Court had ruled, reasonably enough, that Entergy was the owner of the premises and had no contract with itself and thus was not a contractor exempted from liability. Most reasonable people would make the same distinction. When homeowners hire a contractor to perform some task, they don't regard themselves as building contractors bound contractually to share in the work. In this respect Entergy is no different from a homeowner.

The Texas Legislature in recent years has declined repeatedly to allow plant owners to be simultaneously contractors shielded from liability for workplace injuries. The court's ruling makes the justices guilty of blatant judicial activism, which many conservatives regard as an unpardonable sin.

Had the Texas Supreme Court's ruling come earlier, the victims of the BP explosion in Texas City and their families might not have been able to sue for damages, regardless of BP's dangerous and careless practices. Henceforth, negligent and unsafe plant owners can call themselves contractors and, by purchasing worker's comp, shield themselves from liability for workplace injuries no matter how egregious their conduct.

Making the workplace safe for reckless abandon is not the direction Texas should take. The Legislature, at its first opportunity, should make that crystal clear to the high court.