

## CTEH Investigative Review

### Center for Toxicology and Environmental Hazard

The following is a summary that illustrates a problem--industry audits industry to ensure they are applying best practices in oil and hazardous chemical spill clean ups. This could be likened to the IRS outsourcing its audits on tax dodgers using the accounts department of a sister corporation that is suspected of tax fraud. CTEH certifying spill clean ups could be likened to a district attorney consulting with the defense attorney as the main source for his investigation. Environmental Protection agencies accepting Industry information without independent third party verification and peer review defeats the reason for their very existence.

Who is CTEH?

CTEH® was founded on their response experience with railroad hazardous materials incidents. They support the [Association of American Railways](#) and BOE [Bureau of Explosives](#) (an organization dedicated to helping shippers, carriers, and container manufacturers comply with the hazardous materials regulations) by providing best practices in the fields of: emergency response; worker health & safety; industrial hygiene; and, community and environmental risk assessment.

In the petroleum industry, CTEH® has experience responding to hazardous material releases and spills. CTEH® emergency response capabilities include rapid mobilization of a team of toxicologists, industrial hygienists, and medical staff to quickly respond to these types of incidents. Emergency response services include identification of involved petroleum, analysis of environmental fate, determination of safe levels in air, water, soil, or other media, education of local health providers regarding the involved substances, and general incident management.

CTEH® has extensive experience responding to large-scale environmental releases, working with regulators on clients' behalf, engaging and educating local communities during releases, and providing data management to regulators. They deal with federal and state regulations, and are experienced in providing emergency response, toxicology, and data management solutions in support of government projects.

Despite its prestigious relationship with the EPA and cited as a leader in the field of toxicology and environmental health assessment, CTEH® has a highly questionable record and history of under-reporting environmental damages and human health risks to protect their corporate employer. While CTEH® does not appear on EPA's roster of active contractors, records of the agent's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee show a CTEH employee serving as an "industry" member.

Included in it's questionable record and history of understating environmental damages and human health risks are the following examples:

- CTEH® was hired by BP PLC as the primary monitor of offshore workers in the Gulf and Mexico. New York Times reported, "observers of CTEH's work (on the Gulf spill) say the firm has a vested interest in finding a clean bill of health to satisfy its corporate employer (BP Oil)..." Rep. Lois Capps (D-Calif.) asked President Obama to formally relieve BP from the duty of protecting the health of Gulf workers and locals after examining a list of past CTEH® work. She concluded that the firm's name "belies what they've really been doing...protecting industry."

- Murphy Oil Corp. – hired CTEH® to test for contamination from its post-Hurricane Katrina refinery spill in Chalmette, La. The company collected composite soil samples from multiple locations instead of following specified instructions from EPA to collect samples from one area to ensure accuracy.
- In 2008, after a flood of toxic coal ash smothered central Tennessee, (TVA) Tennessee Valley Authority began its own air monitoring after finding CTEH® installing low-volume monitors that community advocates believed were not strong enough to measure air quality in compliance with EPA standards. A Tennessee audit also found seven deficiencies at Bureau Veritas, one of the laboratories used to process TVA air samples. This same company Bureau Veritas, was cited as one of the companies helping to process tests of the BP Gulf Coast workers.
- CTEH®'s study of chemical odors from Chinese drywall, commissioned by manufacturer Knauf Plasterboard Tianjin in 2006, found that none of the product contained elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide or other gases. The Consumer Product Safety commission disagreed, ranking Knauf products No. 1 and No. 4 on its list of “problem drywall” contaminated with hydrogen sulfide.
- Chevron Corp. is in a legal battle after its Texaco affiliate closed down operations that left lingering pollution in Ecuadorian rain forests. Indigenous tribes filed a class-action lawsuit linking the company's chemicals to health hazards from birth defects to cancer.
- Most recently Plains All American Pipeline, whose ruptured pipe caused the recent Santa Barbara spill, and who is part of the Unified Command team over the Refugio clean-up, hired CTEH® to do the toxicity testing in which they already claim it is 91% back to normal and within safety levels for toxicity and environmental health risks.

Among other companies that have hired CTEH® after chemical –release events:

- Teris, a hazardous waste incinerator, after a 2005 explosion at its facility in El Dorado, Ark.
- BNSF and Koppers after residents of Somerville, Texas, filed lawsuits alleging chemical contamination from the companies; railroad-tie plant caused higher cancer risks
- CSX in 2007 after ferric chloride from one of its railroad tankers spilled in Oneida, N.Y.
- Barton Solvents in 2007 following a fire at its Des Moines chemical plant
- Norfolk Southern in 2005 after two of its trains collided, releasing chlorine gas in Graniteville, S.C.
- Environmental Quality, which stores industrial waste, after a 2006 fire and explosion at its facility in Apex, N.C.

In each of these cases, CTEH was alleged to be supplying the data that its employers wanted while falsely assuring the public that everything was OK. CTEH® is definitely a company to watch as Nicholas Cheremisinoff, a former Exxon chemical engineer who now consults on pollution prevention pointed out, “It’s essentially the fox guarding the chicken coop.”

See more at: <http://talkbusiness.net/2013/05/lawsuit-against-exxon-claims-company-concealed-pipeline-defects/#sthash.9IAyvH8.dpuf>  
[http://www.correntewire.com/oil\\_fail\\_cteh\\_coverup\\_gulf](http://www.correntewire.com/oil_fail_cteh_coverup_gulf)  
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