



State of Utah

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Environmental Quality

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NEWS RELEASE

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Utah Seeks \$1.5 million in Unlawful Insurance Claims from BP Amoco

Salt Lake City, Utah – The Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) and the Utah Attorney General's Office have filed a civil action against BP Amoco, alleging the company illegally received nearly \$1.5 million from the state's Petroleum Storage Tank Fund (PST Fund).

The complaint filed in Third District Court, alleges that between 1995 and 2007, BP Amoco applied to the PST Fund, a state insurance policy, and was reimbursed for cleanup costs at BP Amoco service stations when the company already had its own environmental pollution insurance.

Oil companies can only be reimbursed under the PST Fund when they do not have private pollution liability coverage. The complaint states BP Amoco failed to disclose such coverage to the state, which made BP Amoco ineligible to receive reimbursement.

In June, the state of Utah filed a similar lawsuit against ConocoPhillips. Other states have also filed similar claims against oil companies.

The PST Fund was created by the Utah Legislature in 1989 to provide a mechanism for petroleum storage tank owners to meet the federal financial assurance requirements for underground storage tanks. The state of Utah is now seeking reimbursement of the PST Fund for monies that BP Amoco was ineligible to receive as well as statutory penalties and interest.

The Attorney General's Office is representing DERR, a Division of the Department of Environmental Quality, in the lawsuit. DERR's mission is protecting public health and Utah's environment through cleanup of chemically contaminated sites, and by ensuring that underground storage tanks are used properly and by providing chemical usage and emission data to the public and local response agencies.

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