

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

EXAMINATION

By DUANE C. MILLER, Esq., counsel on behalf of the plaintiff:

Q Can we have your name and business address, please?

A Sure. My name is Curtis Stanley. My business address is the Equilon Westhollow Technology Center in Houston, Texas. Is that enough?

Q That's sufficient.

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Excuse me. We need to swear in the witness.

MR. MILLER: Correct.

10:05:30 am12

(Witness sworn.)

MS. DOYLE: So now really tell him your true address.

THE WITNESS: The same.

MR. MILLER: Q Mr. Stanley, I'd like you to briefly relate your educational background starting with college for us, please.

10:06:00 am22

A I have a bachelor of science in geology from North Carolina State University with a specialization in engineering. That is my formal education and then other education that I've received was on-the-job training while at Shell and now Equilon.

Q And basically you were employed by the Shell Oil Company since you graduated from North Carolina State



1 University?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q And you are currently responsible for hydrogeological
4 evaluation of Shell's facilities nationwide and on the West
10:06:30 am 5 Coast immediately prior to Equilon becoming involved; is
6 that correct?

7 A In my career I've had responsibility for evaluating
8 facilities. Currently my primary responsibility is in
9 regard to development and implementation of risk-based
10 corrective action.

11 Q When you were employed by Shell you had responsibility
12 to evaluate retail gasoline stations; is that correct?

10:07:00 am 13 A Yes.

14 Q And you had that responsibility for the West Coast for
15 a period of time for manufacturing facilities; is that
16 correct?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q And you also had that responsibility nationwide for
19 Shell for gasoline stations at one time; is that correct?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q And what period of time are we talking about when you
22 had that responsibility?

23 A For retail?

24 Q Yes.

25 A As I recall probably starting in 1980 extending into

10:07:30 am 1

the mid-eighties.

2

Q And when you had those responsibilities, were you responsible among other things for investigating leaks of gasoline?

3

4

A Yes.

5

6

Q And in that respect did you go to Rockaway, New Jersey in approximately 1980?

7

8

A Yes.

9

Q What was the problem in Rockaway, New Jersey?

10:08:00 am 10

11

A MTBE and diisopropyl ether had been found in the municipal water supply for Rockaway, New Jersey.

12

13

Q And why as a Shell Oil Company employee were you interested in that?

14

10:08:30 am 15

16

A There was an indication that that, the concentrations of those oxygenates, those oxygenates in the water supply, were potentially from one of our service stations located upgradient of the site.

17

18

Q Didn't you confirm that Shell was the source of that problem?

19

20

A We confirmed that we were part of that problem.

21

Q In 1980?

22

A 1980, 1981.

23

10:09:00 am 24

25

Q Okay. And during that investigation were you in charge of that investigation on behalf of Shell?

A Yes.

1 Q And did you determine during that investigation that
2 there were complaints about the taste and odor of water from
3 that well that was operated by the municipality involved?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Who were the taste, who was making the taste and odor
6 complaints?

7 A I was told that some people which were served by that
10:09:30 am 8 utility had made those complaints.

9 Q And did you determine what concentration of MTBE was
10 present in their drinking water in some way?

11 A I, I believe we did. I don't recall specifically what
12 those concentrations were in their drinking water.

13 Q Are we talking about parts per billion?

14 A Yes.

15 Q So is it fair to say that by 1981 Shell Oil Company
10:10:00 am 16 knew that MTBE and its gasoline could contaminate public
17 drinking water supplies?.

18 A Yes.

19 Q And is it also fair to say that they knew by that time
20 that it created taste and odor problems in public drinking
21 water supplies?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And did you report those facts to Shell management?

24 A Yes.

25 Q How did you do that?

10:10:30 am 1 A We had, I believe as part of our investigation, the
2 results of that investigation were reported to both retail
3 and environmental affairs management.
4 Q What is retail?
5 A By "retail" I mean the management that was responsible
6 for the engineering for service station sites.
10:11:00 am 7 Q Okay. And what is the environmental part of the
8 business that you referred to at the time?
9 A The environmental affairs group at the time was the
10 corporate environmental affairs group which is responsible
11 for corporate environmental activities.
12 Q Did you publish a paper in the professional literature
10:11:30 am 13 concerning your findings at Rockaway, New Jersey?
14 A I don't recall specifically publishing a paper on
15 Rockaway.
16 Q Do you recall preparing an MTBE White Paper?
17 A I recall participating in development of a draft MTBE
18 White Paper.
19 (Thereupon a document was marked by the
20 reporter as Exhibit 1 for identification.)
21 MR. MILLER: Q I'm going to show you a document
10:12:00 am 22 I'll mark as Exhibit 1. It's entitled, "Impact of MTBE on
23 Groundwater" under the heading, "MTBE White Paper," and
24 you're listed as the first author. And it has attached to
25 it a depiction of plumes and a list of seven references.