



## News Release

Date: March 23, 2004

Contact: Katie Stavinoha  
(316) 828-3621  
katie.stavinoha@fhr.com

### **EPA RECOGNIZES FLINT HILLS RESOURCES EFFORTS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS** *Company is one of 13 honored with Clean Air Excellence Award*

**WASHINGTON, DC** – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt today honored Flint Hills Resources with a 2003 Clean Air Excellence Award. Thirteen projects will receive the 2003 recognition.

“Innovative and sustainable programs are a right and necessary part of our efforts to protect the environment and public health,” Leavitt said. “The Clean Air Excellence Awards recognize the pioneers in developing and implementing such programs.” The agency said Flint Hills Resources was honored based on the impact, innovation and replicability of its approach to reducing flaring at its Texas and Minnesota refineries.

Flint Hills Resources’ emissions-reduction project was one of 13 chosen by EPA from more than 120 applications. The company has reduced refinery flare time by 95 percent in the past six years.

Refineries use flaring to burn unused hydrocarbons and eliminate equipment over-pressuring. Reduction in flaring has allowed Flint Hills Resources, which owns and operates refineries in Rosemount, Minn. and Corpus Christi, Texas, to increase the amount of marketable product and cut an estimated 800 tons of sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compound emissions annually.

“Flint Hills Resources set a goal to reduce flaring to improve our operational and environmental performance,” said Dave Robertson, president of the Wichita, Kan.-based company. “Our ability to meet that goal – and recapture hydrocarbons and cut emissions – is due to team work by our employees and implementing operational controls and improving existing technology.”

In 2003, the Texas west refinery averaged 9 minutes per day of flare time and the Minnesota refinery averaged 11.4 minutes per day. In 2002, it was 45.1 minutes and 8.7 minutes per day respectively.

Flint Hills Resources earned the Clean Air Excellence Award in the clean technology category during the fourth annual awards ceremony. The awards program recognizes and honors outstanding, innovative efforts to make progress in achieving cleaner air, and was established at the recommendation of the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee.

"Flint Hills Resources commitment to reduce emissions from flaring is among the best in the industry," said Bob Slaughter, president of National Petrochemical & Refiners Association. "The company's efforts demonstrate how businesses can voluntarily put systems in place to improve operations to help protect the environment. We congratulate Flint Hills Resources' leadership and the company on this prestigious award."

*Flint Hills Resources, LP, based in Wichita, Kan., is a leading producer of fuels, base oils for lubricants, and other petrochemical products. The company operates refineries in Corpus Christi, Texas and Rosemount, Minn., which process about 600,000 barrels of crude oil daily. The company is finalizing the acquisition of a refinery located in North Pole, Alaska, along with refined product terminals in Fairbanks and Anchorage. More information is available at [www.fhr.com](http://www.fhr.com).*

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