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## News Release

August 21, 2003

### **CLEAN AIR Force salutes teamwork to improve local air quality**

*Flint Hills Resources offers cleaner-burning gasoline in Central Texas as efforts to reduce ozone continue*

AUSTIN, Texas – **The CLEAN AIR Force of Central Texas (CAF)** announced today that Central Texans are a few steps closer to breathing cleaner air, pointing to the efforts of a public-private approach between local, state and federal agencies and a local refinery.

Flint Hills Resources LP, which owns a Corpus Christi refining complex, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently reached an agreement that has resulted in the company bringing cleaner-burning gasoline immediately to several major Texas cities battling air quality problems, including cities in the Central Texas area.

Local, state and federal officials, along with refinery and environmental quality organizations assisted customers in filling up with the cleaner-burning gasoline at a press conference Thursday. Flint Hills Resources introduced the cleaner-burning gasoline in May to Central Texas markets as well as markets in San Antonio, Waco, Dallas-Ft. Worth, and Corpus Christi.

#### **The Central Texas Air Quality Problem**

Over the past six years, Central Texas has recorded ground-level ozone readings in excess of the federal air quality standard for ground-level ozone. The effective standard is 85 parts per billion (ppb). For compliance purposes, the Central Texas region's current average is 86 ppb. The Central Texas area is currently creating a Clean Air Action Plan under the Early Action Compact (EAC), an innovative agreement between local authorities, TCEQ and EPA to address local air quality problems.

"We recognize that to truly make an impact, we must work together to achieve clean air goals," said Robert J. Huston, TCEQ Chairman and CLEAN AIR Force Board Member. "The Early Action Compact provides a basis for meeting those goals early - and not waiting until the last minute. Flint Hills' cleaner-burning gasoline plays an important role in meeting our air quality goals."

According to CLEAN AIR Force Executive Director, Deanna Altenhoff, the Clean Air Action Plan for Central Texas must reduce oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions by 26 tons per day or 96 tons per day of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) or a combination of both in order to achieve compliance with the 8-hour federal ozone standard. NOx and VOCs are two chemicals that mix with sunlight to form ground-level ozone, a pollutant that can cause irritation and inflammation of the lungs, leading to reduced lung capacity. EPA and TCEQ will determine whether the air in Central Texas meets the federal air quality standard for ground-level ozone in April 2004, in part based on Summer 2003 air quality data.

“Actions we take today to improve air quality during the 2003 Ozone Season can have a significant effect on our region’s future,” said Altenhoff. “Central Texans are known for their commitment to the environment and we are going to need every ounce of that commitment if we are to achieve safe levels of air.”

### **Steps Toward Solutions**

“By bringing Flint Hills’ cleaner-burning gasoline to Central Texas this summer, 3.2 tons per day of NOx will be removed from the air and that will definitely help us in these crucial summer months when ground-level ozone is most likely to form. That amount in reduction is the equivalent of removing emissions from 8,300 cars per month from our roadways,” said CLEAN AIR Force Chair, Mike Heiligenstein. “That still leaves us with approximately 23 tons of NOx to reduce, which will not be an easy task, but this is a step in the right direction.”

Other measures being considered for inclusion in the Clean Air Action Plan are an inspection and maintenance program for vehicles and cleaner emissions controls on businesses and power plants. The entire list of suggested measures can be found at [www.cleanairforce.org](http://www.cleanairforce.org) and the public is encouraged to join in the community discussion on what measures will be best for Central Texans. Public input is requested by October 31, 2003.

“Doing nothing is not an option,” said Will Wynn, Austin Mayor and Board Member of the CLEAN AIR Force. “Flint Hills Resources has done their part and now we must continue to encourage Central Texas consumers, businesses and governments to do each of their parts to help clean up our air.”

“We are proud to be part of this innovative partnership that is helping to improve the air all of us breathe,” said James Mahoney, Flint Hills Resources Vice-President.

"The fact that cleaner-burning gasolines are coming to the market sooner rather than later is a big step ahead for Central Texas," said Richard E. Greene, the Regional Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. "This clean air partnership is an excellent example of how cooperation between industry and governments are working to address non-attainment and near non-attainment areas."

### **About The CLEAN AIR Force**

The CLEAN AIR Force of Central Texas is a 501(c)(3) organization comprised of business leaders, governments, academia, elected officials, environmental groups, and community leaders throughout Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties. Founded in 1993, the focus of the organization's efforts is to coordinate and conduct air quality planning and education activities in Central Texas and to advise responsible government entities on air quality issues. In addition to its programs (Clean Air Partners, the Adopt-A-School Bus Program, the Ozone

Action Day Program, etc.) CLEAN AIR Force meetings provide a public forum for the exchange of clean air information and ideas.

For additional information about the CLEAN AIR Force, questions on air quality in Central Texas, or how to get involved in the development of the Clean Air Action Plan, please visit the CLEAN AIR Force website at [www.cleanairforce.org](http://www.cleanairforce.org), or contact Ms. Deanna Altenhoff, Executive Director of the CLEAN AIR Force, at (512) 916-6057 or via email at [Altenhoff.caf@capco.state.tx.us](mailto:Altenhoff.caf@capco.state.tx.us).

**About Flint Hills Resources, LP**

Flint Hills Resources, based in Wichita, Kan., is a leading producer of fuels, base oils for lubricants, and other petrochemical products, and markets gasoline sold in Central Texas, as well as in Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Waco and Dallas-Ft. Worth markets. The company operates refineries in Corpus Christi, Texas and Pine Bend, Minn., which process about 600,000 barrels of crude oil daily, and is an investor in Excel Paralubes in Lake Charles, La., which daily can produce 21,000 barrels of Group II base oils, the base stock for motor oil. The Corpus Christi refining complex employs more than 900 people and has a processing capability of 300,000 barrels-per-day. The company has spent more than \$200 million for environmental solutions in recent years. More information is available at [www.fhr.com](http://www.fhr.com).

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