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**Green Inc.**



Energy, the Environment and the Bottom Line

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April 23, 2009, 4:48 pm

## Shell Settles Air Pollution Suit

By [Jad Mouawad](#)



The giant oil company [Royal Dutch Shell](#) said Thursday that it had reached a \$5.8 million settlement over claims of air pollution at its [Deer Park refinery](#) near Houston.

The proposed settlement would require Shell to reduce emissions from air pollutants from its plant by 80 percent within three years, upgrade chemical units, and reduce gas flaring.

The agreement is subject to review by the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) and the [Department of Justice](#). It must also be approved by the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, where the complaint ([PDF](#)) was filed.

Shell [was sued](#) last year by [Environment Texas](#) and the [Sierra Club](#) for violations of the [Clean Air Act](#). The suit alleged more than a thousand cases of illegal pollution at the plant since 2003, releasing a total of five million pounds of air pollutants into the atmosphere, including toxic chemicals like benzene and 1,3-butadiene, as well as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.

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### Green Inc. Staff

#### Tom Zeller Jr.

Editor



After a year as an editor at large for National Geographic magazine, Tom returned to The New York Times in July 2008 to help expand the paper's coverage of sustainable energy development and green business. He has spent much of the last decade as a reporter and editor covering a variety of topics for The Times – from technology and cyberfraud to culture and politics.

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#### Kate Galbraith

Reporter



Ms. Galbraith joined The New York Times in June 2008 to write about renewable energy. She spent the previous year as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, and before that she was the Southwest correspondent for The Economist based in Austin, Tex. She is an avid runner and hiker, having grown up camping most summers in the Sierra Nevada.

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#### James Kanter

Reporter



Mr. Kanter has been a staff correspondent for The International Herald Tribune in Paris and Brussels since 2005, covering European business affairs and the business of green. His previous experience includes four years in Southeast Asia, where he was the editor in chief of The Cambodia Daily in Phnom Penh and oversaw coverage of environmental issues like uncontrolled logging.

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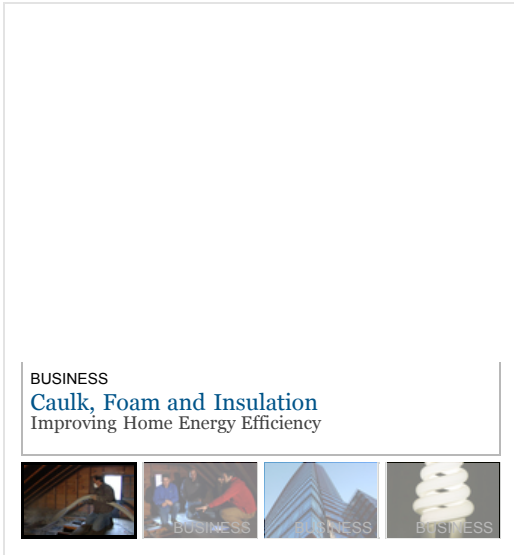
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