

# LOBBY WATCH



★ TEXANS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE 609 W. 18TH ST., SUITE E, AUSTIN, TX 78701 PH: (512)472-9770 FAX: (512)472-9830

Unreported Emissions:

May 29, 2002

## Perry Cash & Houston Smog Traced To Common Source

### • Will Political Hacks Rewrite Texas' Air-Quality Plan for Houston?

Pressured by industrial polluters that have given Governor Perry \$408,256, Texas officials are considering gutting their own plan to stop Houston from flunking federal air-quality standards. Instead, they want to substitute an industry air plan based on a ludicrous premise.

Because Houston has some of the nation's filthiest air, the federal government forced Texas in 2000 to adopt a cleanup plan to make the Houston area meet U.S. air-quality standards. Masquerading as the Greater Houston Partnership's "Business Coalition for Clean Air Appeal Group," polluters that account for about 56 percent of Houston's smog-producing nitrogen oxides (NOx) sued the state last year. Alleging that junk science marred the state plan, the polluter plaintiffs demanded fewer restrictions on their emissions.

At a minimum, the state based its cleanup plan on junk reporting. Results from air-monitoring planes that sampled toxic plumes directly over Houston industrial plants show that these polluters released an estimated 143,000 tons of ozone-forming "olefins" each year—or 12 times what polluters reported to the state.

Now polluters want to make *reductions in previously unreported emissions* part of their contribution to Houston's clean-air plan, environmentalists say. Clean-air advocates warn that the Texas Natural Re-

**Perry's Polluters**  
Campaign Cash Emissions, June '97-Dec '01

'Business Coalition for Clean Air' Polluter	Perry Donations	'99 Houston-Area NOx Emissions
Reliant Energy	\$132,500	50,504 tons/year
Texas Petrochemicals	\$100,500	1,547 tons/year
Enterprise Products	\$81,256	1,279 tons/year
Entergy	\$30,000	2,865 tons/year
Shell	\$12,000	8,384 tons/year
Dynegy	\$11,500	362 tons/year
Dow Chemical	\$11,000	18,314 tons/year
ExxonMobil	\$10,500	21,028 tons/year
ChevronTexaco*	\$6,500	3,089 tons/year
Occidental Petroleum†	\$4,500	2,379 tons/year
Lyondell	\$6,000	5,445 tons/year
Air Products & Chemicals	\$2,000	182 tons/year
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$408,256</b>	<b>115,378 tons/year</b>

\* Owns 26 percent of Dynegy;

† In Equistar Chemicals joint venture.

sources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) is about to propose a new Houston air plan that does just that.

The last word on this scheme goes to three TNRCC commissioners who answer to Governor Perry. Perry has received \$408,256 in campaign contributions in recent years from the very "Business Coalition for Clean Air Appeal Group" polluters that keep hacking away at clean-air plans for Houston. •