

Texas' fabled skies now among nation's dirtiest, EPA says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fabled wide-open skies above Texas are now among the country's dirtiest, according to a government inventory released Monday that finds the state leads the nation in industrial air pollution.

The Environmental Protection Agency's inventory also found Texas ranked first in on-site land disposal of toxic chemicals, third in both chemical discharges into surface water and public sewage systems, and second in underground injections of toxic chemicals.

EPA said the state also ranks second in the amount of waste transferred from an industrial site to another location, including across state lines.

Roger Meacham, EPA spokesman in Dallas, said the state's heavy concentration of petrochemical companies and refineries were largely responsible for the state's toxic air emissions.

Meacham said people "should be concerned but not alarmed" by the survey's findings, and that EPA and its state counterparts "need to move expeditiously to better control these releases."

The EPA's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) said industries reported releasing 22.5 billion pounds of toxic chemicals in 1987, with about 80 percent re-

leased directly from manufacturing facilities into the air, water land or underground wells in 1987. An additional 20 percent was transferred from the originating facilities to other sites, including public sewage systems or incinerators.

Of the 25 counties that account for the largest releases and transfers of toxic chemicals, Texas has six — Harris, in second place; Calhoun, third; Brazoria, sixth; Milam, eighth; Jefferson, ninth; and Galveston, 25th.

EPA warned that the 18 billion pounds of TRI releases and 4.6 billion pounds of transfers "are not an indicator of human or environmental exposure to these chemicals."

But Daniel Weiss, Washington director of the Sierra Club's pollution program, said the EPA's inventory "reinforces the crying need for dramatic reductions in airborne toxic emissions to protect Texans' health."

EPA's inventory found Texas industries released 239 million pounds of toxins into the air in 1987, accounting for 9 percent of the national total.

"The air is the greatest source of exposure to toxic chemicals," said Weiss. An adult breathes 10,000 to 20,000 liters of air a day, compared with drinking two liters of water.

Workers' comp remains a hot issue

Clements calls special session to address 2-year-old problem

AUSTIN (AP) — A single issue — reform of the Texas workers' compensation system — is behind the special legislative session that begins Tuesday.

Lawmakers began studying the system in 1987, and two years later they have failed to agree on the problem, let alone the solution.

Here are some questions and answers about the issue that has forced legislative overtime:

Q: What is workers' compensation?

A: It is insurance purchased by employers to cover medical and other expenses, including some lost wages, of employees who are hurt or killed in on-the-job accidents.

In return for these benefits, the employer is immune from being sued by the employee, regardless of who is at fault for the injury. This is what is termed a no-fault system, and constitutes the overriding incentive for employers to purchase workers' comp insurance.

In 1988, the Industrial Accident Board handled approximately 177,000 individual cases for workers who were injured seriously enough to qualify for workers' comp benefits.

Q: Is workers' comp insurance mandatory for employers?

A: No. Texas is one of only three states that doesn't require employers to purchase workers' comp insurance. According to the Industrial Accident Board, some 360,000 Texas employers buy workers comp insurance, while about 100,000 do not. In 1988, Texas employers paid approximately \$2.9 billion in workers' comp insurance.

Q: What are the major disputes over workers' comp?

A: Businesses have been hit with increases of 148 percent over the past four years in workers' comp premiums. They blame the present system, which allows disputed workers' comp claims to be appealed to a state district court in a jury trial. In the jury trial, the previous ruling of the Industrial Accident Board is not admissible. Only three states have this kind of system.

But trial lawyers, who represent injured workers in court, and labor organizations blame the increases on greedy insurance companies and stingy employers who fail to provide

a safe workplace. Since Texas ranks among the leaders in job-related injuries and deaths, they argue that reducing the number of injuries will in turn reduce workers' comp premiums.

Of the 177,000 cases handled last year, about 500 went to a jury trial.

Businesses also argue that a new system of figuring benefits is needed to provide stability to the system. Employers want an "impairment system" where compensation is based on what part of the body was injured and how badly.

But trial lawyers defend the cur-

rent system, which is based on lost wage earning capacity of the injured worker.

Q: What happened during regular session on workers' comp?

A: In the final analysis, that is why Gov. Bill Clements called a special legislative session. Lawmakers spent \$450,000 on an interim legislative report on workers' comp.

But the House, which produced a bill supported by business and Senate, which approved a bill moving toward labor and trial lawyers, could not agree on a compromise.

Parmer declines race for House post says Jim Wright should keep seat

FORT WORTH (AP) — Rep. Jim Wright's congressional seat should be his to keep if he wants, says the man most often mentioned as a likely candidate to succeed him.

"I certainly think Jim Wright is the person who could be the best congressman for Fort Worth and the 12th District," state Sen. Hugh Parmer said Monday in declining to seek the congressional post himself.

"The vast majority of people in Fort Worth believe that while Jim may have made some mistakes of judgment, as Jim has admitted . . . it did not warrant the kind of penalty or price that he is talking about paying," the Fort Worth Democrat said.

Wright resigned as Speaker of the House on May 31 and said he'd resign his congressional seat by the end of June to end a furor in Congress over allegations he violated House ethics.

Wright spokesman Mark Johnson said Monday the congressman was gratified by supporters' suggestions that he keep the seat or run for it again, but "he is not

encouraging this and his plans have not changed."

"He is proceeding with the transition" into private life by the end of June, Johnson said, though no nomination date has been set.

Parmer, a longtime friend of Wright, said he told congressman of his decision last week.

Asked whether Wright still planned to leave office, Parmer said, "I would say that he said neither yes nor no. He simply listened to what I had to say."

"He is by far the dominant figure of the Democratic party in this county," Parmer said, citing recent election results that found district voters still view Wright favorably.

Texas Gov. Bill Clements has two options for filling congressional vacancy. If he deems the situation an emergency, he could order a special election from 30 days after receipt of the resignation letter. Otherwise, the election would be set on the next uniform election day, Aug. 12.

Speculation on possible Wright successors ranged across the political spectrum, but Parmer was most often mentioned as a possible candidate.

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ARTS & CRAFTS

- Albrush:** T/Th, June 20 - July 18, 6-8pm, \$28/student, \$30/nonstudent
- Stained Glass:** Wed, June 21 - July 19, 6-9pm, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent
- Basket Weaving:** Wed, July 5 - 26, 6-9pm, \$16/student, \$18/nonstudent
- Etched Glass:** Wed, July 12, 6-9pm, \$10/student, \$12/nonstudent
- Calligraphy:** Wed, June 21 - Aug 2, 7-9pm, \$23/student, \$25/nonstudent
- Matting & Framing:** Wed, June 21 - July 12, 5:15-7:15pm, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent
- Counted Cross Stitch:** Wed, June 21 - July 5, 6-8pm, \$10/student, \$12/nonstudent
- Quilting:** Mon, June 19 - July 17, 1-3pm, Class meets off campus, \$20 fee
- Jewelry Casting Seminar:** Sat. & Sun, June 24 & 25, 9am-12noon & 1-4pm each day, \$38/student, \$40/nonstudent
- Pottery - Wheel Throwing:** Wed, June 21 - July 26, 7:30-9:30pm, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent
- Fabric Painting & Stenciling:** Thurs, June 29, July 6, 6-8pm, \$8/student, \$12/nonstudent
- Drawing:** Thurs, June 29 - Aug 3, 6-8pm, \$30/student, \$32/nonstudent
- Watercolor:** Tues, June 20 6-8:30pm, Thurs, June 22 6-8:30pm, Sat, June 24 10am-3pm, Thurs, Aug 3 6-8:30pm, Sat, Aug 5 10am-3pm, Tues, Aug 8 6-8:30pm, \$18/student, \$20/nonstudent

BUSINESS

- Accounting for Small Business:** Thurs, June 22 - Aug 10, 6-8pm, \$28/student, \$30/nonstudent
- Basics of Investing:** Tues, June 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25, 7:30-9pm, \$15/student, \$17/nonstudent
- Career Counseling:** Thurs, June 22, 29, July 6, 13, 6-8pm, \$14/student, \$16/nonstudent
- Interviewing:** Mon, July 24, 6-9pm, \$8/student, \$10/nonstudent
- Resume Writing:** Mon, July 17, 6-9pm, \$8/student, \$10/nonstudent
- Business Etiquette for Success:** M/W, July 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 8-9:30pm, \$10/student, \$12/nonstudent
- Stress Management:** M/W, June 26 - July 17, 6:30-8:30pm, \$20/student, \$22/nonstudent
- Image Consulting - Career of the 90's:** Wed, July 12, 19, 26, Aug 2, 6:30-8:30pm, \$15/student, \$17/nonstudent
- Developing Business Image and Style:** Tues, July 11, 18, 25, Aug 1, 6-8pm, \$14/student, \$16/nonstudent
- Public Speaking and Communication:** M/W, July 10 - Aug 2, 7-8:30pm, \$20/student, \$22/nonstudent

HEALTH

- CPR:** M/W, June 19, 21, 6-10pm, T/Th, Aug 1, 3, 6-10pm, \$14/student, \$16/nonstudent
- Nutrition On The Go:** M/W, June 19, 21, 26, 28, 7-8pm, \$10/student, \$12/nonstudent
- Six Days To Stress Relief:** M/W, June 26 - July 17, 6:30-8:30pm, \$20/student, \$22/nonstudent
- First Aid:** T/Th, July 18, 20, 25, 27, 6-9pm, \$20/student, \$22/nonstudent
- I Quit Smoking, So Can You!** Wed, June 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, 7-8:30pm, \$18/student, \$20/nonstudent

DANCE

- Beg. Country & Western Dance:** Wed, June 21, 28, July 12, 19, 26, 6-7:15pm, \$20/student, \$22/nonstudent
- Adv. Country & Western Dance:** Wed, June 21, 28, July 12, 19, 26, 7:30-8:45pm, \$20/student, \$22/nonstudent
- Beginning Jitterbug:** Mon, June 19, 26, July 10, 17, 24, 7-8:15pm, \$18/student, \$20/nonstudent
- Ballet/Dancing:** Tues, July 11, 18, 25, Aug 1, 8, 7:30-9pm, \$18/student, \$20/nonstudent

WOODWORKING

- Beginning Woodworking:** Thurs, June 22 - July 13, 6:30-9pm, Mon, July 17 - Aug 7, 6:30-9pm, \$27/student, \$29/nonstudent
- Wooden Toys:** Wed, July 12, 19, 26, Aug 2, 6-8pm, \$15/student, \$17/nonstudent
- Decoy Carving:** Tues, July 11 - Aug 8, 6:30-9:30pm, \$30/student, \$32/nonstudent

PHOTOGRAPHY

- The Visual Art Of Photography:** Thurs, July 6, 13, 20, 27, 7-9pm, \$17/student, \$19/nonstudent
- Beginning Black & White Darkroom:** Sat, June 24, July 8, 15, 9-12noon, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent
- Studio Photography:** Sat, July 8, 15, 9-12noon, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent

COMPUTERS

- Intro To Macintosh Computer:** T/Th, June 20, 22 OR July 11, 13, 6-7:45pm, \$15/student, \$18/nonstudent
- Macintosh Word Processing:** T/Th, June 27, 29 OR July 18, 20, 6-7:45pm, \$15/student, \$18/nonstudent

LANGUAGES

- American Sign Language:** T/Th, June 27 - Aug 1, 6-8pm, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent
- Conversational Chinese:** T/Th, June 27 - Aug 8, 6:30-8pm, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent
- English as a Second Language (ESL):** M/W, June 26 - Aug 7, 6:30-8:30pm, \$40/student, \$42/nonstudent
- Conversational French:** M/W, June 26 - Aug 7, 6:30-8pm, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent
- Conversational German:** M/W, June 26 - Aug 7, 6:30-8pm, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent
- Conversational Italian:** T/Th, June 27 - Aug 8, 6:30-8pm, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent
- Conversational Japanese:** T/Th, June 27 - Aug 8, 6:30-8pm, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent
- Conversational Russian:** T/Th, June 27 - Aug 8, 6:30-8pm, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent
- Conversational Spanish:** M/W, June 26 - Aug 7, 6:30-8pm, T/Th, June 27 - Aug 8, 6:30-8pm, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent

SELF HELP

- Personality Enhancement:** Thurs, July 20, 27, 6-9pm, \$12/student, \$14/nonstudent
- Get Yourself Organized:** Tues, July 11, 18, 25, Aug 1, 6-7:30pm, \$12/student, \$14/nonstudent
- Assertiveness Training:** Mon, June 19, 26, July 10, 17, 7-8:30pm, \$12/student, \$14/nonstudent
- How to say "NO":** Mon, July 24, 31, Aug 7, 7-8:30pm, \$10/student, \$12/nonstudent
- Stay Safe - Personal Safety:** Thurs, June 29, 6-9pm, \$5/student, \$7/nonstudent
- Property Protection:** Thurs, July 13, 6-9pm, \$5/student, \$7/nonstudent

SPECIAL INTEREST

- Auto Mechanics:** Thurs, June 29 - July 27, 7-9pm, \$18/student, \$20/nonstudent
- Plan Your Own Wedding:** Mon, July 10 - 31, 6-8pm, \$14/student, \$16/nonstudent
- Bike Maintenance:** Thurs, June 22 - July 13, 7-9pm (6-10pm last class), Tues, July 18 - Aug 8, 7-9pm (6-10pm last class), \$16/student, \$18/nonstudent
- Herb Gardening:** Tues, June 27 - Aug 1, 7-8pm, \$8/student, \$10/nonstudent
- Home Landscaping:** Wed, June 28 - July 26, 7-9:30pm, \$20/student, \$22/nonstudent
- Yoga:** M/W, June 26 - Aug 7, 8:30-9:30pm, T/Th, June 27 - Aug 8, 8:30-9:30pm, \$20/student, \$22/nonstudent
- Image Consulting - Career of the 90's:** Wed, July 12, 19, 26, Aug 2, 6:30-8:30pm, \$15/student, \$17/nonstudent

JUST FOR FUN

- Juggling:** Wed, June 21, 28, July 5, 12, 6-8:30pm, Tues, July 11, 18, 25, Aug 1, 6-8:30pm, \$10/student, \$12/nonstudent
- Bartending:** M/W, June 26 - July 31, 7-10pm, \$38/student, \$40/nonstudent
- Basic Camcorder and VCR Tech:** Mon, July 10, 17, 24, 31, 7-9pm, \$20/student, \$22/nonstudent
- Beginning Guitar:** T/Th, June 27 - July 25, 7-8:30pm, \$25/student, \$27/nonstudent
- Children Can Cook I:** T/Th, June 20 - 29, 2-4pm, M/W, July 31 - Aug 9, 2-4pm, Class meets off campus, \$24 fee
- Cake Decorating:** Tues, June 20, 27, 6-9pm, Tues, Aug 1, 8, 6-9pm, \$12/student, \$14/nonstudent

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