

Environmental Regulatory

Overview

A significant part of our practice is devoted to counseling clients across a broad range of environmental law issues. We strive to keep our clients abreast of significant new laws and regulations that may affect their business practices. Our lawyers frequently comment on agency rulemaking and other proposed public agency activities.

We help clients work through permitting requirements and other regulatory compliance issues that often complicate new industrial construction projects or ongoing operations. In addition, we structure real estate transactions to enable our clients to intelligently assess and plan for associated environmental liabilities.

When questions about reporting requirements for the release of hazardous substances arise, we know the value of providing a quick response. In addition, we help identify those situations where a proactive, voluntary cleanup of contaminated properties may best serve our client's interest, such as opportunities arising under the new Brownfields programs.

We can help identify the criteria that restoration activities must meet, particularly under the Louisiana Risk Evaluation/Corrective Action Program standards. We also guide businesses through the air, water, and waste law permitting processes associated with repair and rebuilding projects. Our experience includes advising clients in transactions involving properties with past contamination issues.

Our lawyers represent clients in a broad range of environmental matters, including administrative hearings and litigation in state and federal courts.

We have successfully defended numerous companies in environmental penalty proceedings involving the Environmental Protection Agency, Minerals Management System, the U.S. Department of Justice and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. We also have represented permit applicants in cases where citizens challenged the permitting of chemical companies and hazardous waste facilities.

The firm represented the American Petroleum Institute and its member companies in cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, the Fifth, Sixth and Ninth Circuits. These matters involved the judicial review of Clean Water Act effluent limitations regulations and permit decisions affecting the offshore exploration and production industry. We also have handled numerous cases in Louisiana courts involving tort allegations arising out of damage to land from industrial operations, as well as private toxic tort claims involving Louisiana "Superfund" sites.

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