

New Judge, Same Result – \$81 Million CWA Civil Penalty Appealed



U.S. District Court Judge Dee Drell of the Western District of Louisiana recently denied a motion to alter or amend the court's judgment against CITGO Petroleum Corp. – allowing an \$81 million judgment against the oil company to stand, report **Jaclyn E. Hickman** and **Robert B. McNeal** on the **Energy Law Blog** of **Liskow & Lewis**.

The **article reports** that the judgment is the latest in a suit the EPA filed against CITGO under the Clean Water Act for a 2006 spill at the oil company's St. Charles refinery.

“Given that in 2015 all civil enforcement actions by the EPA yielded penalties totaling \$205 million (excluding settlements), the CITGO judgment stands out as unusually large,” the authors write. ... “The Fifth Circuit's response to CITGO's second appeal may provide guidance on whether these types of judgments could be a trend in future Clean Water Act enforcement actions.”

Read the article.