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## Texas City Explosion - Archive of past b

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### Judge says BP has 10 days to turn over air test data

Judge's ruling follows lawsuit filed after workers sent to hospital

By **BRETT CLANTON**

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A federal judge in Galveston has given BP 10 days to turn over results of air-quality tests at its Texas City refinery after more than 100 contract workers were sent to hospitals last week, complaining of flu-like symptoms.

The ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Samuel Kent comes in response to a lawsuit filed Monday by one of the contract workers, who accused the British oil company of trying to cover up a leak at the facility on April 19.

BP spokesman Scott Dean would not comment on the ruling, which, in addition to air test data, orders the company to release all internal documents and correspondence related to the incident and to identify the substance that the lawsuit alleges sickened workers.

He said BP has not found any evidence of a leak, but is still investigating the matter.

The night of April 19, some of the 400 workers doing repairs and upgrades on an oil-processing unit said they felt ill, BP said.

Two area hospitals treated the workers and released most of them a few hours later, BP said.

But local emergency response officials found no evidence of a leak. Air monitors posted nearby in Texas City and maintained by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality also turned up nothing, said commission spokeswoman Andrea Morrow.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, however, has an "open and ongoing" investigation into the incident, said OSHA spokeswoman Diana Petterson, who declined to give details.

BP's Texas City refinery has been under scrutiny since a March 2005 explosion killed 15 workers and injured scores more.

Anthony Buzbee, the attorney representing the contract worker who is suing BP, said nearly 75 workers have come forward seeking representation after last week's incident.

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**Happy1** wrote:

I understand that BP higher ups were at fault for the explosion in March 2005. I am



curious to know if these contract works involved in this incident understand that working on a refinery does involve some risk and if they were doing repairs and upgrades on an oil-processing unit doesn't that mean that they were trying to correct what was wrong and make it right?? I would also like to ask why were there no BP employees made sick. I work in a dangerous job myself and I was made aware of that when I was hired. I also signed documents stating that I was told this at the time of my interview as I am sure these contract workers were also. It just seems that today everybody is looking for someone to blame and some easy way to make a buck. I'm not saying that is what these contract workers are doing and I do hope that BP will hand over all information regarding this matter. I'm just saying that we need to be responsible for ourselves and know when we have put ourselves in a dangerous situation. There is just to many fraudulent lawsuits these days and I think we need to look at both sides a little closer.

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