

# CHEVRONTEXACO'S LEGAL STRATEGY IN ECUADOR

August 2005

---

**Q: How does ChevronTexaco justify high levels of toxins at its well sites in the Ecuador trial?**

**A: It invents its own law.**

*ChevronTexaco refuses to recognize the law in Ecuador, as the following chart demonstrates:*

	<b>Legal norm for TPH in soil for inhabited lands:</b>	<b>Source:</b>
<b>CHEVRONTEXACO</b>	<b>10,000 parts per million (ppm)**</b>	<b>Texaco*</b>
<b>Ecuador Law</b>	<b>1,000 ppm</b>	<b>Ecuador Decree 1215</b>
<b>Texas</b>	<b>230 ppm</b>	<b>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>200 ppm</b>	<b>EPA</b>
<b>Arkansas</b>	<b>100 ppm</b>	<b>EPA</b>
<b>Deleware</b>	<b>100 ppm</b>	<b>EPA</b>
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>100 ppm</b>	<b>EPA</b>
<b>Nevada</b>	<b>100 ppm</b>	<b>EPA</b>
<b>Montana</b>	<b>100 ppm</b>	<b>EPA</b>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>25 ppm</b>	<b>EPA</b>

\*ChevronTexaco cites no valid source for this standard and several others it uses. On occasion, the company claims Louisiana has a standard of 10,000 ppm for TPH, but that standard applies to industrial sites where waste disposal is not petroleum-related and where the disposal is controlled and monitored so it does not impact water sources and human health. On other occasions, ChevronTexaco has tried to apply standards for hazardous waste sites to petroleum-contaminated sites in Ecuador even though they have no applicability.

\*\*PPM (parts per million) is a standard to measure the quantity of toxics.

\*\*\*TPHs (Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons) are hydrocarbons derived from petroleum. TPHs found in soil and water are considered an excellent measure of the extent of petroleum contamination. Although ChevronTexaco has invented its own "law" in Ecuador, it is significant that 19 soil samples produced in the trail up to this point by both sides violate even ChevronTexaco's shockingly high standard of 10,000 ppm for TPH. Two soil samples at Texaco well sites show levels of TPH contamination at more than 260,000 ppm -- a scandalous amount that is approximately 2,500 times over the typical norm for TPH in the United States and 250 times higher than Ecuador law permits. Thus, ChevronTexaco is in violation not only of Ecaudorian law, but of its own standards that it "invented" in a failed effort to facilitate its own exoneration.