

September 29, 2006

Chevron Employees  
Chevron Corporation  
6001 Bollinger Canyon Rd.  
San Ramon, CA 94583



Dear Chevron Employees,

Greetings from Amazon Watch. We know that you, like us, care about the world we live in. Reflecting the moral values and dedication of its employees, Chevron has a wonderful track record of giving back to the San Ramon community. We applaud Chevron for this and would like to share with you how we believe the company can become an industry leader in our global community as well.

First, let us clear the air: Chevron's top management likes to paint Amazon Watch as a fringe and extreme environmental group. In truth, we are people just like you—parents, spouses, neighbors, and friends—who care about our children, our families, our own neighborhoods and the world we live in. Like you, we also believe that large companies have an ethical responsibility to positively contribute to the communities in which they operate. We believe that Chevron is not telling you the entire truth about the situation that Texaco left behind in Ecuador's Amazon rainforest, where it operated for more than 30 years. Texaco's problem is now Chevron's; when the two companies merged, Chevron inherited Texaco's assets *and* its liabilities. We believe that if Chevron employees knew the real truth about the Ecuador problem, you might encourage Chevron management to change course.

The facts are really quite simple. From 1964 to 1992, Texaco deliberately dumped 18 billion gallons of toxic waste into the rainforest environment throughout the Ecuadorian Amazon—a cost-saving measure that violated industry standards at the time. Today, hundreds of unlined waste pits continue to leech into the water sources throughout an area roughly the size of Marin and Contra Costa counties combined. About 30,000 people live and depend upon this now-contaminated water for their survival. Cancer rates and other health problems have skyrocketed in the region. Five indigenous groups that live in the area have been devastated, and two are close to disappearing altogether. One tribe that was already in decline when Texaco began drilling in Ecuador has now disappeared. Meanwhile, Chevron management insists there are no health problems but has failed to commission a single independent health study.

Texaco undertook an ineffective "remediation" several years ago, spending a fraction of what would be required for a fully-adequate clean up. Chevron's senior management continues to pretend this clean-up effort was adequate, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. In fact, 100 percent of the sites inspected in the Ecuador trial—sites that were supposedly cleaned up by Texaco—show high levels of toxins that violate U.S. and Ecuadorian law. *These are not Amazon Watch-invented claims; see the actual trial results for yourself, along with a recently-published document separating fact from myth, at [www.chevrontoxico.com](http://www.chevrontoxico.com).*

We are not the only ones concerned. Ecuador's government—an emerging democracy and friend of the U.S.—recently filed a claim against Chevron in U.S. federal court related to the inadequate remediation. In addition, Ecuador's top law enforcement officer has launched a criminal investigation into the remediation that could ensnare Chevron executive Ricardo Reis Veiga, the former Texaco executive who designed and oversaw Texaco's supposed clean up effort. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is also investigating Chevron for withholding from shareholders potential

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financial liabilities that could result from the Ecuador trial. While the Ecuadorian government itself is not without a certain degree of blame for this tragic situation, the ultimate responsibility—indeed, the ethical and financial responsibility—lies with the company that created the contamination in the first place. In the meantime, impoverished communities in the Amazon will continue to suffer the health consequences. This is something Chevron would never stand for in San Ramon, and should equally abhor in Ecuador.

The good news is that it is not too late. Chevron does have a way out of this mess. The *Aguinda vs. ChevronTexaco* litigation has yet to draw to a close. The plaintiffs' demands are clear and simple: the company at fault needs to genuinely and comprehensively remediate the damage. Even at this stage, a sharp change of direction in Chevron's strategy, both in and out of court, could make Chevron an industry leader—one that lives up to its stated values of social and environmental responsibility not only in San Ramon, but in the global community as well.

We ask that each of you take a moment to read the recommended materials on our website and consider taking action to urge company management to change direction. The results would be good for the company's reputation and credibility, and good for tens of thousands of people in Ecuador.

It is not often in life that we are faced with a situation where the difference between right and wrong is so clear. But there *is* a right way and a wrong way when it comes to Chevron's response to the contamination left behind in Ecuador; please help Chevron do the right thing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Atossa Soltani". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Atossa Soltani  
Executive Director