



NEWS RELEASE

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Placid Refining Co. earns high U.S. government safety certification

U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA gives Placid its highest "Star" status

PORT ALLEN, LA — The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has admitted Placid Refining Co. of Port Allen into its Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) at the "Star," or highest level.

"Placid Refining has demonstrated excellence in effective safety and health management," said OSHA acting Regional Administrator Frank Strasheim in Dallas. "The company's outstanding efforts include achieving an injury and illness rate that is 87 percent below the national average for the industry."

More than 300 Placid employees, contractors, West Baton Rouge and Port Allen elected officials, OSHA officials and others attended a luncheon ceremony at the Port Allen refinery to commemorate the company's VPP Star achievement. Following the luncheon, employees and officials gathered around the site's flagpole along Louisiana Highway 1 North to raise the official VPP Star flag.

Only about 1,600 worksites out of 17 million in the United States have earned entry into OSHA's Voluntary Protection Programs. Requirements include a high degree of management support and employee involvement; a high quality worksite hazard analysis; prevention and control programs; and comprehensive safety and health training for all employees. Companies in the VPP achieve average injury rates 50 percent lower than other companies in their respective industries.

Placid Vice President and General Manager Gary Fuller said the process for gaining

admission to the VPP program was complex and required several years of preparations.

“Today is a great milestone for Placid. It took a big effort, but we knew that we could make it happen,” Fuller told the gathering at the March 27 ceremony. “A safe operation is key to being successful. Thank you and congratulations.”

Obtaining entry into the VPP Star program is one of numerous safety achievements at Placid. In April, company employees will complete their 17th year without a single lost-time accident. Last year, Placid was presented the National Petroleum Refiners Association’s Distinguished Safety Award, the refining industry’s highest safety recognition.



Caption for photo:

Placid Refining Company employees display the official Voluntary Protection Programs Star flag presented to the company by the U.S. Labor Department’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Only a tiny percentage of the millions of U.S. worksites have been admitted into the VPP program, which signifies a company’s commitment to safety.