



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JULY 19, 1971

The Department of Justice filed a civil injunction suit against a Texas chemical manufacturer today to halt pollution of the Houston Ship Channel.

Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said the suit was filed against Rohm & Haas Company in the U.S. District Court in Houston.

The action, brought under the 1899 Refuse Act, sought to abate discharges of zinc, cadmium, iron, molybdenum, tin, manganese, copper, nickel, lead, chromium, silver and other toxic heavy metals and suspended organics and solids.

The suit said the discharges cause irreparable injury to the ecology of the ship channel and the larger bodies of water into which it flows.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which referred the matter to the Department of Justice, has also called a Federal-State Enforcement Conference seeking to abate discharges by industries located along the Houston Ship Channel on the ground that the shellfish areas of Galveston Bay are threatened by pollution from the Channel.

Assistant Attorney General Shiro Kashiwa, head of the Land and Natural Resources Division, said the suit is the second civil injunction action taken by the Justice Department to clean up the Houston Ship Channel.