

## **COMMITTEE TO BRIDGE THE GAP**

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### **CLEAN WATER ACT SUIT FILED AGAINST BOEING**

#### Flagrant Violations of Pollution Limits at Santa Susana Field Lab Alleged in Citizen Suit

Three environmental groups today filed suit against the Boeing Corporation over its persistent noncompliance with water pollution laws at its Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) in the Simi Hills. The action under the citizen suit provisions of the Clean Water Act was filed in the wake of 49 violations of pollution discharge limits in a recent nine month period, with no fines or other substantive enforcement action taken by regulators. Dozens of other violations occurred over the previous years.

“Boeing is a repeat offender of environmental laws and regulators have failed to force compliance,” said John Farrow, attorney for the plaintiffs. “Only through citizen recourse to the courts is there hope of stopping these discharges of toxic materials into the neighboring communities.”

Excessive levels of dioxins, mercury, chromium, copper, iron, sulfate, manganese and other constituents have been released in surface waters leaving SSFL, in violation of the facility’s pollution discharge permit.

The suit was filed in federal court in Los Angeles by the Committee to Bridge the Gap, the Los Angeles chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, and the Southern California Federation of Scientists.

“It is a pity that citizens have to act when regulators fail to do so,” said Daniel Hirsch, President of Bridge the Gap, the lead plaintiff group. “But it is a greater pity that anyone has to act at all. Being a huge and powerful corporation does not permit you to be above the law.”

Copies of the Complaint and the 60-Day Notice Letter are available upon request and at [www.committeetobridgethegap.org](http://www.committeetobridgethegap.org)