

Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2002 3:43 PM
Subject: BIG DROP IN EPA POLICING OF POLLUTERS

Dear Aquathin Dealer OnLine, Splash NewsBulletin and Allergic Reaction NewsBulletin Members;

In the recent past you have received Splash NewsBulletins and Forum Q & As discussing the quantities of "reported" pollutants (billions of tons) on an annual basis, and this information is from "licensed" polluters. The quick read article below concerns that reduced policing by the EPA against the non-licensed polluters. Ladies, gentlemen, Dealers....this issue is not just within the confines of the USA. The problem is pandemic. I have bold and underscored a particularly cold to the point paragraph below. I would urge all Dealers to add this article to their professional presentation of information and urge all customers to show to friends and relatives. The EPA regulates only 91 contaminants at water plants out of over 10,000 chemical compounds produced every year. These reasons i.e. lax policing / enforcement and incomplete list of regulated pollutants is why its up to each and everyone of us to personally provide our families the very best in home water security that we can. I love my Aquathin !

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"Alfie"
Alfred J. Lipshultz, President

P.S. "Splash NewsBulletins", "Forum Q & A", "Allergic Reaction", Tech Bank and Quote Bank... ARE ALL FREE services to all Authorized Aquathin Dealers and their clients to keep you abreast of technology updates and industry news.

Markey releases study showing big drop in EPA policing

By Glen Johnson, Globe Staff, 10/1/2002 THE BOSTON GLOBE

WASHINGTON - Enforcement of the nation's environmental laws has fallen precipitously under the Bush administration, US Representative Edward J. Markey, Democrat of Malden, said yesterday.

Markey asked Christie Whitman, head of the Environmental Protection Agency, to return to much higher enforcement levels seen during the Clinton administration.

A study by Markey's staff showed a huge decline in costs to polluters resulting from EPA enforcement. Using the agency's data, the study found that the total amount of penalties and remedies for EPA administrative actions in the first 14 months of the Bush administration fell 80 percent from the total recovered during the last 131/2 months of the Clinton administration, from \$845.1 million to \$165.1 million.

The average settlement cost of those EPA administrative actions fell by 63 percent, from \$234,000 to \$87,000, in the periods examined in the study.

The staff also looked at a three-month period under both the Clinton and Bush presidencies - from Feb. 20 to July 20 in 2000 and 2002 - and found similar results.

"I am concerned that the dramatic reduction in numbers of and settlements for EPA Administrative Actions taken during the Bush Administration could lead polluting companies to conclude that it pays to pollute and that there is no incentive to stop," said a statement Markey released.

"Just as weak oversight of corporate accounting led directly to misleading and fraudulent investment disclosure by companies like Enron, weak enforcement of our environmental laws will lead directly to rising pollution, tainted water supplies and dirty air," he said. "It is unacceptable for the new EPA menu to have plenty of specials for polluters, but leftovers for the families who must live next to polluting facilities."

An EPA spokesman did not return a phone call seeking comment on the analysis.

The Markey study - titled "Does Polluting Pay at the Bush EPA?" - focused on cases launched and concluded within the two administrations. Administrative actions include cases that are handled internally by the EPA or by an arbitrator, as opposed to judicial actions, which require intervention by the courts.

Markey, a nuclear energy opponent who serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, asked for stiffer enforcement of environmental laws in a letter to Whitman, the EPA administrator.

"Businesses that fully comply with federal environmental laws are harmed when those who fail to comply are not subject to enforcement action," Markey wrote. "If the laws are not enforced, dishonest competitors can put honest businesses out of business simply by continuing to pollute while avoiding the expenses associated with preventing pollution that are incurred by honest competitors."

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