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**LAWSUIT: TOXIC CHEMICALS ILLEGALLY DUMPED FOR 50 YEARS
CAUSED MASSIVE CANCER CLUSTER**

Oxford, MS — Today, a lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi alleging that for more than 50 years, the people and environment of Water Valley, Mississippi were poisoned with trichloroethylene, or TCE, by an auto parts company previously owned and operated by EnPro Industries. The illegal dumping is alleged to have caused a “cancer cluster”, with higher rates of cancer in the county than in nearby surrounding areas.

*“This greedy company cheated to cut costs at the expense of human health and risking countless lives,” **said Nick Rowley, a nationally acclaimed trial attorney and co-founder of Trial Lawyers for Justice.** “The scope and scale of harms and losses caused by this wrongdoing is devastating.”*

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) all consider trichloroethylene to be a known human carcinogen. TCE is known to damage a wide variety of organs in the human body, most specifically the eyes, skin, respiratory system, heart, liver, kidneys, and the central nervous system. It’s also linked to the development of numerous other health-related issues that can manifest decades after the initial exposure to the chemical. Its toxicity has long been known in Mississippi to be so dangerous that it was considered unsafe to be used in cattle feed dating back to the 1950s due to concerns that the cattle developed hemorrhagic diseases and disorders that caused them to bleed out and die from awful and shocking deaths.

*“It’s well known that this is a dangerous chemical, and yet we were exposed to dangerous levels, and they polluted the land and drinking water with it,” **said Excel Vance, age 69, one of the victims and plaintiffs in the lawsuit.** “The harm that they caused to my life, my family, and this community is unspeakable.”*

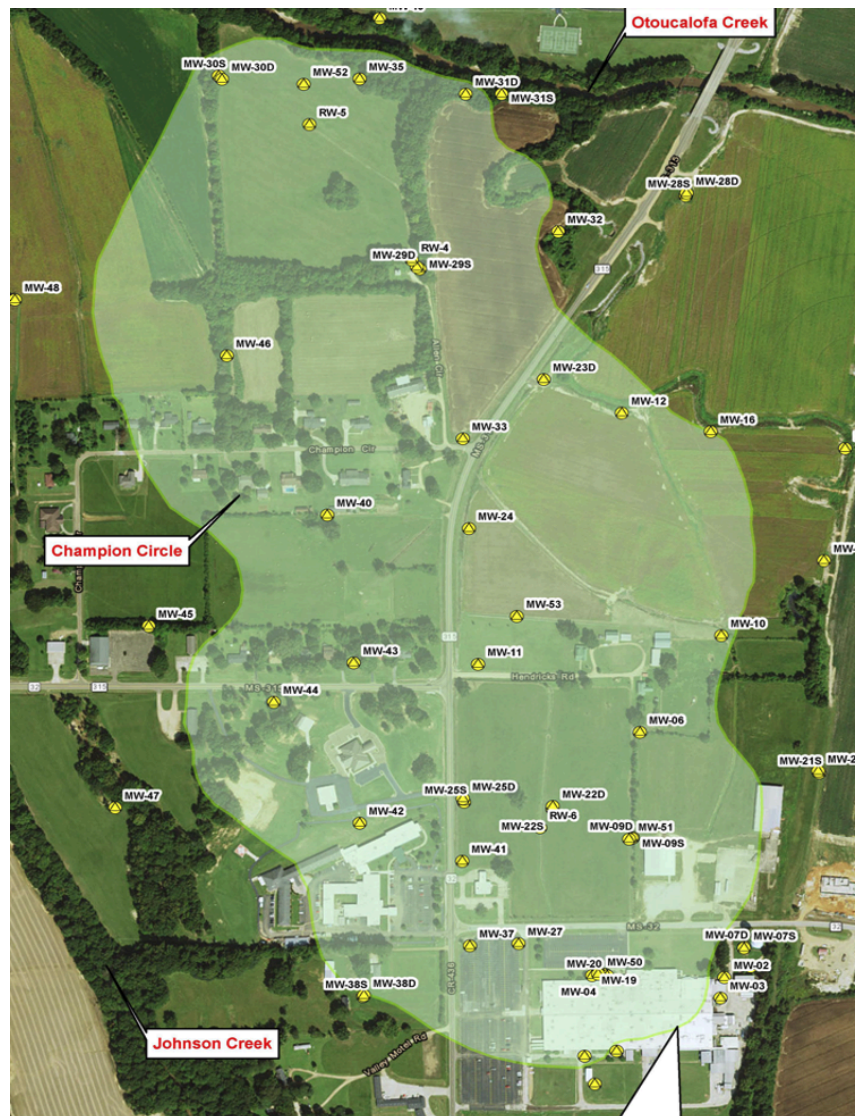
According to the lawsuit filed today against EnPro Industries, multiple victims who worked at an auto parts company suffer from cancer and other health complications stemming directly from the prolonged and continuous poisoning of the air, water, and soil within the communities of Water Valley, Mississippi, and the greater Yalobusha

County area. The cancer is alleged to have been caused by 50 years of illegal and irresponsible dumping and discharge of TCE beginning in 1972 by the Holley Automotive Division of Colt Industries, Inc. (later renamed Coltec and acquired by Enpro Industries) where they manufactured automotive parts including carburetors and related components. TCE was used as a solvent at the facility to clean these automotive parts of the debris and other contaminants that had accumulated on the automotive parts during the fabrication process.

*“Several hundred victims have come forward with cancers and other conditions caused by exposure to TCE,” said **Drew Tominello, attorney for the victims.** “This lawsuit is the first of many that we expect to file for the scores of individuals and families that have been harmed.”*

Though Coltec quit using TCE as a solvent in its degreasing equipment in the late 80s, the volume of TCE it released into the environment created a plume of TCE emanating from the facility which covers approximately 340 acres of land and measures 3,900 feet long by 2,100 feet wide, extending in a northerly direction toward the Otoucalofa Creek and downtown business district of Water Valley.

Based on information presently known to the victims’ attorneys, Coltec directed employees to clean the TCE degreaser equipment by hand, causing them to come into contact with highly concentrated waste TCE without informing, instructing,



or requiring them to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) over their skin, eyes, nose, and mouth. Oftentimes, Coltec would allow the waste TCE tank on its property to become so full that it would overflow from the pressure relief valve. Other times, the TCE waste would be discharged into a ditch near the Facility. On at least one occasion, the very next day after that intentional discharge, a Coltec employee noticed approximately 20 dead turtles in the ditch and reported it to his manager and several other co-workers. Despite these concerns, Coltec continued to look for ways to cut costs on TCE disposal. Their methods for disposing of TCE waste included spraying it in a gravel lot for “weed control” and encouraging employees to take home as much of it as they could to kill weeds in their own yards.

From 1972 to 1987, Coltec records demonstrate it purchased at least 80,000 gallons of TCE, yet it only disposed of approximately 5,775 gallons responsibly. Due to its density, TCE is heavier than water and if discharged into the environment, tends to sink into the ground, contaminating the water table. TCE can remain volatile in the soil for decades after initial contamination.

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