

Amazon Defense Coalition: Chevron Lying About Toxins in Mr. Salinas' Water Well, Evidence Shows Elderly Man in Ecuador's Rainforest Becomes Target of Global Internet Attacks Fostered by Oil Giant

LAGO AGRIO, Ecuador--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Yes, the scientific evidence at trial in Ecuador proves that the freshwater well at the house of Manuel Salinas in Ecuador's Amazon -- featured on 60 Minutes on Sunday -- is contaminated with toxic carcinogens. Sorry, Chevron, but Mr. Salinas knows more than you do about his own well.

The following is a copy of the Amazon Defense Coalition's water data for all samples collected at SSF38. The SSF38-A2-GW1-NF (1.50)m is their sample from Mr. Salinas' well. There's a reason they make claims without showing the data. His water meets USEPA drinking water criteria.

NOMBRE DEL CLIENTE: Dr. Amaury Mauricio Suárez Rivera
DIRECCIÓN: Ciudadela El Calzado Mz. 29 casa 6
TELEFONO: 09619-8745
RESPONSABLE MUESTREO: Dr. Amaury Mauricio Suárez Rivera

FECHA DE RECEPCIÓN: 19 de Noviembre de 2005
LUGAR DE MUESTREO: Pozo Shushufindi 38
FECHA DE ANÁLISIS: 19 al 28 de Noviembre 2005
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AGUAS:

PUNTO DE MUESTREO	Código HAVOC	HAPs mg/l	TPH mg/l	BARIO mg/l	CROMO ⁺⁶ mg/l	NIQUEL mg/l	CADMIO mg/l	ZINC mg/l
MÉTODO DE REFERENCIA	APHA 6440	APHA 5520-F	APHA 3500 Ba-B	EPA 7196 A	APHA 3500 Ni-B	APHA 3500 Cd-B	APHA 3500 Zn-B
SSF38-A2-GW1-NF(1.50)m	A051124	0.0002	0.1	0.7	0.01	0.006	0.001	0.02
SSF38-A3-GW1-NF(1.57)m	A051125	0.0001	0.2	0.2	0.01	0.012	0.002	0.02
SSF38-PIT2-AS1	A051126	0.0003	1.2	0.2	0.01	0.005	0.001	0.05
SSF38-PIT1-SD1-GW1-NF(1.0)m	A051127	0.0004	0.4	0.2	0.01	0.006	0.001	0.02

The lowest of USEPA National Primary drinking water regulations are:

- Cadmium (Cadmio) = 0.005 milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- Zinc (Zinc) = 5mg/L
- Barium (Bario) = 2mg/L
- The USEPA doesn't have a Chromium VI limit for drinking water. The limit is 0.1mg/L for total chromium.
- The USEPA doesn't have a TPH limit for drinking water.
- The USEPA doesn't have a nickel limit for drinking water.
- HAPs (or PAHs) are discussed below.

The Amazon Watch Coalition did not test for benzene in Mr. Salinas' well.

In the two samples reported from the pits for which Petroecuador is responsible for remediating, (SSF38-PIT2-AS1 and SSF38-PIT1-SD1-GW1-NF(1.0)m listed above), the Amazon Defense Coalition reports levels below USEPA drinking water regulations.

Salinas, a long-suffering elderly man in Ecuador's rainforest who was featured on the broadcast Sunday, has been targeted by Chevron in a web-based global misinformation campaign that claims the well from where he gets his drinking water is free of oil-related contamination. He

In preparing this document, in no way do we mean to "target" or "attack" Mr. Salinas. Rather, this document is solely intended to demonstrate the Amazon Defense Coalition's wholly unprincipled "global misinformation campaign" underway. Instead of directing their energies and resources towards compelling Petroecuador to fulfill its clean-up obligations, the Amazon Defense Coalition is using people like Mr. Salinas to mislead a well-meaning public into sympathizing with their scheme to extort a financial windfall from Chevron.

<p>lived with his family and some chickens for more than twenty-five years next to an enormous toxic waste pit built by Texaco in 1974 that still oozes its contents into the surrounding soils and groundwater, as reported by the broadcast network and confirmed by trial evidence.</p>	
<p>In the broadcast, Mr. Salinas – one of thousands of Ecuadorians suing the oil giant for \$27 billion in damages -- complained to correspondent Scott Pelley that the water in his well was contaminated and smelled of oil.</p>	
<p>Chevron has since claimed, in messages repeated on the internet by several right-wing bloggers, that evidence in the trial shows that the water well on Mr. Salinas' land is not contaminated with hydrocarbons.</p>	
<p>Chevron is wrong, according to the definitive report on the trial evidence prepared by an independent, court-appointed expert who reviewed more than 62,000 chemical sampling results produced as evidence by both parties.</p>	<p>There are no records of Cabrera having visited Shushufindi-38, sampling from Shushufundi-38, or providing any of his own data from Shushufindi-38. Furthermore, Cabrera did not take a single sample of anyone's drinking water during his fieldwork.</p> <p>Chevron's 2005 data for Mr. Salinas' well follows:</p>

NÚMERO DE POZO			SSF-38
IDENTIFICACIÓN DE MUESTRA:			Jl-SSF-38-GW1
FECHA DEL MUESTREO:			18/11/05
TIPO DE POZO:			Pozo casero
PARÁMETRO	CAS No.	CRITERIO DE EVALUACIÓN	
		mg/L	mg/L
TPH (Método 8015B de la USEPA SW-846)			
TPH DRO	NA	N/D	<0.08
TPH GRO	NA	N/D	<0.012
BTEX (Método 8260B de la USEPA SW-846)			
Benceno	71-43-2	0.005	<0.0001
Etilbenceno	100-41-4	0.3	<0.0001
Tolueno	108-88-3	0.7	<0.0002
Xilenos (total)	1330-20-7	0.5	<0.0004
Metales (Método 200.7 de la USEPA, Mercurio por 245.2)			
Bario	7440-39-3	0.7	0.0235
Cadmio	7440-43-9	0.003	<0.0002
Cromo	7440-47-3	0.05	<0.0016
Cobre	7440-50-8	1	<0.0011
Mercurio	7439-97-6	0.001	<0.000053
Plomo	7439-92-1	0.01	<0.0025
Niquel	7440-02-0	0.02	<0.0015
Vanadio	7440-62-2	0.3	<0.0014
Zinc	7440-66-6	3	0.0054J
Parámetros Generales de Calidad del Agua (ver Nota 5 para Nos. de Métodos.)			
Acidez como CaCO3	NA	N/D	30
Alcalinidad, como CaCO3	10-09-3	500	21.8
Cloruro	16887-00-6	250	2.97
TDS (Solidos Disueltos Totales)	NA	500	48
Coliformes Totales, NMP ufc/100 ml	NA	Detección	6900
Coliformes Fecales, NMP ufc/100 ml	NA	Detección	920
pH, unidades pH	NA	N/D	5.6
Conductividad Especifica, mS	NA	N/D	0.064

The data demonstrate that no hydrocarbons were detected and there are no metals present above USEPA drinking water regulations. In particular, no cadmium is detected.

A water sample taken in the trial directly from Mr. Salinas' freshwater well showed toxic levels of likely carcinogens and harmful heavy metals that are derived from oil, including benzo[a]pyrene, indeno[1,2,3]pyrene, and cadmium. The U.S. government has determined that each of these chemicals are likely or probable

These are the Amazon Defense Coalition's individual PAH results:

carcinogens, as reflected in a toxic substance registry maintained at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

HAPs AGUAS

COMPUESTO HAPs	UNIDAD	A051124	A051125	A051126	A051127
NAFTALENO	mg/l	0.000012	0.000008	0.000001	0.000017
FENANTRENO	mg/l	0.000048	0.000013	0.000005	0.000040
ANTRACENO	mg/l	0.000001	0.000005	0.000003	0.000070
FLUORANTENO	mg/l	0.000001	0.000003	0.000001	0.000044
BENZO (a) ANTRACENO	mg/l	0.000006	0.000000	0.000001	0.000001
CRISENO	mg/l	0.000019	0.000030	0.000044	0.000062
BENZO (k) FLUORANTENO	mg/l	0.000007	0.000024	0.000078	0.000063
BENZO (a) PIRENO	mg/l	0.000031	0.000022	0.000081	0.000012
INDENOL (1.2.3) PIRENO	mg/l	0.000012	0.000007	0.000007	0.000042
BENZO (g,h,i) PERILENO	mg/l	0.000091	0.000057	0.000089	0.000016

The USEPA has set a drinking water limit only for Benzo (a) pyrene (pireno in Spanish) of 0.0002 mg/L.

Chevron's PAH results follow:

NÚMERO DE POZO		SSF-38	
IDENTIFICACIÓN DE MUESTRA:		JI-SSF-38-GW1	
FECHA DEL MUESTREO:		18/11/05	
TIPO DE POZO:		Pozo casero	
PARÁMETRO	CAS No.	CRITERIO DE EVALUACIÓN	
		mg/L	mg/L
PAH (Método 8270C)			
Acenafteno	83-32-9	2	<0.00007
Acenaftileno	208-96-8	2	<0.00006
Antraceno	120-12-7	10	<0.00007
Benzo (a) antraceno	56-55-3	0.001	<0.0001
Benzo (a) pireno	50-32-8	0.0002	<0.0002
Benzo (b) fluoranteno	205-99-2	0.001	<0.0002
Benzo (ghi) perileno	191-24-2	1	<0.0001
Benzo (k) fluoranteno	207-08-9	0.01	<0.0001
Criseno	218-01-9	0.1	<0.0001
Dibenzo (a,h) antraceno	53-70-3	0.0001	<0.0001
Fluoranteno	206-44-0	1	<0.00008
Fluoreno	86-73-7	1	<0.00007
Indeno (1,2,3-cd) pireno	193-39-5	0.001	<0.0001
Naftaleno	91-20-3	1	<0.00006
Fenantreno	85-01-8	1	<0.00009
Pireno	129-00-0	1	<0.00009

The data show that there were no PAHs found in water collected from Mr. Salinas' well.

The oil drilling site next to Salinas' house, called Shushufindi 38, was built by Texaco and closed by the company without any remediation long before it stopped operating in

This sample was taken from an open pit for which Petroecuador is responsible for remediating. Petroecuador has Shushufundi-38 on their list of sites to have remediated by 2010, and they began the first stage of that remediation in 2007 according to their own 2007 Annual Report. Documentation available upon request (see PEPDA_2007_SSF MAP).

The USEPA has not set a drinking water limit for TPH.

<p>Ecuador in 1990. Petroleum hydrocarbon levels found in soil samples taken in and around the waste pit were as high as 476,528 ppm, or 4,760 times than maximum amounts permitted under relevant U.S. law.</p>	
<p>“The pollution in the entire area where Mr. Salinas lives is comparable to many Superfund sites in the U.S.,” said Douglas Beltman, the scientific advisor to the local communities and a former EPA official. “Chevron should be ashamed of itself for attacking this defenseless man instead of cleaning up the pollution it left behind, which Mr. Salinas has been forced to live with.”</p>	
<p>Chevron has also tried to claim the oil well next to Mr. Salinas’ house is the property of Petroecuador, Ecuador’s state-owned oil company. In fact, the well was never used by Petroecuador for oil production, only by Texaco. Texaco was solely responsible for the design, construction, operation, and closure of the waste pits around Salinas’ home and will be held responsible for cleaning it should the communities win the lawsuit.</p>	<p>While this well did produce for the consortium, it was not among the well sites included in Texaco Petroleum’s remediation obligations. Petroecuador performed multiple work overs at Shushufindi-38 since the company took over operations of the field from Texaco Petroleum: 1991, 1993, 1994, and two in 2002.</p> <p>Remarkably, during the November 17, 2005 Shushufindi-38 judicial inspection, Petroecuador was performing a work over. Photo available upon request (see Shushufindi-38 work over photo, November 17, 2005). The Amazon Defense Coalition participated in the judicial inspection, as evidenced by the samples they collected and submitted to the court. Presumably, they are aware of the work-over which they personally witnessed.</p> <p>Petroecuador had converted Shushufundi-38 to an injection well by the time of the 2005 judicial inspection.</p> <p>Petroecuador has repeatedly stated that it is solely responsible for the remaining remediation work required in the Oriente. Documentation available upon request (see El Comercio 05 Octubre 2006, PEPDA supplement, and Copy of the official letter of the Ministry of Energy and Mines explaining the scope of the PEPDA project).</p>
<p>Chevron purchased Texaco in 2001 and will be responsible for any liability assessed in the case. The trial is expected to end later this year.</p>	