

United States Attorney Southern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

YUSILL SCRIBNER, EDELI RIVERA, JESSIE ERWIN PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE (212) 637-2600

ENRD CHARLES MILLER (202) 616-0907

<u>EPA</u> JOHN SENN 212-637-3667

UNITED STATES ANNOUNCES \$3.9 MILLION BANKRUPTCY SETTLEMENT WITH CHEMICAL MANUFACTURER AT THE GOWANUS CANAL SUPERFUND SITE

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, ROBERT DREHER, the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division ("ENRD"), and CYNTHIA GILES, the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), announced today that the United States has entered into a settlement agreement with Connecticut chemical manufacturer CHEMTURA CORPORATION requiring CHEMTURA to pay \$3.9 million for the cleanup of the Gowanus Canal Superfund Site, located in Brooklyn, New York. The settlement agreement resolves a claim asserted against CHEMTURA by the EPA under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA") in CHEMTURA's bankruptcy proceedings. The settlement is subject to the approval of U.S. Bankruptcy Judge ROBERT E. GERBER.

Based in Middlebury, Connecticut, CHEMTURA is a global producer of specialty chemicals, polymer products, and crop protection chemicals, and a leading U.S. supplier of pool and spa chemicals. The company operates in more than 40 countries and its predecessors include Crompton & Knowles Corporation, Uniroyal Chemical Corporation, Witco Corporation, and Great Lakes Chemical Corporation. On March 18, 2009, CHEMTURA and 26 of its affiliates filed Chapter 11 petitions in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York.

In October 2009, the United States filed a proof of claim against CHEMTURA in the bankruptcy seeking to recover past and future environmental cleanup costs at the Gowanus Site based on its former ownership and operation of facilities located at 633 and 688-700 Court Street.

On March 2, 2010, the Gowanus Site was listed on the Superfund National Priorities List, the nation's list of most contaminated sites requiring cleanup. The Gowanus Site includes the Gowanus Canal, a tidal arm of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary, and properties that are sources of contamination to the Canal.

Under the Settlement Agreement filed today in Manhattan bankruptcy court:

CHEMTURA has agreed to an allowed general unsecured claim of \$3.9 million to resolve its liabilities at the Gowanus Site. This allowed general unsecured claim is expected to be fully paid in cash. In addition, the settlement agreement will not become effective until the court approves a separate settlement agreement entered into between CHEMTURA and the NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION that requires CHEMTURA to comply with New York State orders requiring cleanup of the two properties located at 633 and 688-700 Court Street.

Before being considered by the Bankruptcy Court for approval, the settlement agreement will be lodged with the Bankruptcy Court for a period of thirty days to provide public notice and to afford members of the public the opportunity to comment on the settlement.

The United States previously entered into a separate settlement agreement with CHEMTURA, pursuant to which CHEMTURA agreed to pay approximately \$26 million to resolve claims of the EPA and the National Oceanic Administration at 20 sites other than the Gowanus Site. That separate settlement agreement was approved by the bankruptcy court on September 17, 2010.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA praised the efforts of the ENRD and the EPA.

The case is being handled by the Environmental Protection Unit of the Office's Civil Division, along with the Department of Justice's ENRD. Assistant U.S. Attorneys LAWRENCE FOGELMAN, NATALIE KUEHLER, SARAH LIGHT, and BRIAN MORGAN, and ENRD Attorney KEVIN LYSKOWSKI are in charge of the case.