

## **Big Oil's Lobby Arm Says It Cares For The Environment--**

## **--But Its Corporate Members Have Racked Up \$38 Billion In Environmental Penalties**

**Summary:** The American Petroleum Institute (API) publicly claims to support a clean environment. In A February 2021 interview with the Washington Examiner, API's CEO said that "environmental protection is at our core." That couldn't be further from the truth.

While API runs public relations campaigns painting a rosy picture, it covers for its big oil members who are some of the worst polluters in the country. An analysis of environmental penalties assessed by government agencies and civil lawsuits under the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and other environmental protection laws shows that API's biggest member companies have been assessed \$37,994,957,969 in penalties since the year 2000.

**While API Says It Cares For The Environment And Climate, The Big Oil Corporations It Represents Have Been Assessed \$38 Billion In Penalties For Damaging The Environment**

### **The American Petroleum Institute- Big Oil's Lobbying And Public Relations Machine- Says It Cares For The Environment...**

**API Is An Industry Association Representing 600 Oil And Gas Corporations.** "API represents all segments of America's oil and natural gas industry. Our more than 600 members produce, process and distribute most of the nation's energy. The industry supports more than ten million U.S. jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans." [API, accessed [03/01/21](#)]

**API Says It Has A Long-Standing Commitment To Protecting The Environment.** "America's oil and natural gas industry has a long-standing commitment to protecting the environment. The industry's environmental investments represent a crucial aspect of today's energy exploration and production process." [API.org, accessed [03/01/21](#)]

**API's CEO Bragged In A Recent Interview That "Environmental Protection Is At Our Core."** "In fact, we maintain over 700 industry standards, all in the area of health, environment, and safety. We use these standards to really enforce what our principles are, that we produce in the most environmentally responsible way and better than any other country in the world. It is part and parcel of this industry. Safety is at our core, and environmental protection is at our core." [Washington Examiner, [02/25/21](#)]

### **But An Analysis Of Its Members Environmental Violations Tells A Different Story...**

**An Analysis Of Environmental Violations Shows That Most Of The Companies With A Seat On API's Board Of Directors Have Been Assessed Millions In Penalties For Environmental Violations.** [Good Jobs First, accessed [03/01/21](#)]

- API's Board Is Made Up Of Executives From Some Of The Biggest Oil And Gas Corporations In The World.** API doesn't make a list of its board member companies readily available, but letter from API's board list the following signatories, each of which also has an executive listed as a board member on API's most recent IRS form 990: "Plains All American Pipeline, Apache Corporation, Motiva Enterprises, Shell Oil, Cabot Oil And Gas, BP America, Phillips 66, Devon Energy, Equinor, Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Marathon Oil, Hess Corporation, Occidental Petroleum, Newpark Resources, Petro-Hunt LLC, Murphy Oil Corporation, Cimarex Energy Company, Schlumberger Ltd, W&T Offshore, ConocoPhillips, Oceaneering International, Chesapeake Energy, Halliburton, Enbridge, WPX energy, BHP, Technip FMC, TC Energy, Parker Drilling Company, Noble Corporation, Fluor Corporation, Chevron, ExxonMobil, and Ariel Corporation." [API Board Letter To Ryan Zinke, [02/27/17](#); API IRS Form 990, [12/31/18](#)]

<b>API Board Member Penalties</b>			
<b>API BOARD MEMBER COMPANY</b>	<b>Environmental Penalties</b>	<b>Employment Penalties</b>	<b>Safety Penalties</b>
Plains All American Pipeline	\$52,804,850.00	-	-
Apache Corporation	\$3,420,133	\$846,616	\$18,000
Motiva Enterprises	\$169,633,827	\$558,376	\$816,735
Shell Oil	\$269,168,522	\$6,737,045	\$430,763
Cabot Oil And Gas	-	-	-
BP America	\$27,828,442,980	-	\$122,774
Phillips 66	\$53,576,952	\$5,500,000	\$301,409
Devon Energy	\$408,417	-	\$105,040
Equinor	\$201,940	-	-
Marathon Petroleum Corp.	\$1,429,667,463	\$29,559,531	\$40,565,604
Marathon Oil	\$4,803,760	\$300,007	\$28,105
Hess Corporation	\$50,892,895	\$2,285,868	\$137,760
Occidental Petroleum	\$5,375,338,564	\$13,256	536643
Newpark Resources	-	-	\$33,268
Petro-Hunt LLC	-	-	-
Murphy Oil Corporation	\$88,963	-	-
Cimarex Energy Company	\$68,220	-	-
Schlumberger Ltd	\$59,238	\$9,710,624	\$249,846
W&T Offshore	\$3,362,961	-	-
ConocoPhillips	\$684,504,448	\$16,188,011	\$899,460

Oceaneering International	-	-	\$31,832
Chesapeake Energy	\$13,889,964	\$30,000	\$208,046
Halliburton	\$20,964,952	-	\$275,810
Enbridge	\$270,743,473	\$13,639	\$204,340
WPX energy	\$426,711	-	-
BHP	\$1,480,470	\$20,002	\$1,140,286
Technip FMC	-	-	-
TC Energy	\$2,518,123	\$70,210	\$5,000
Parker Drilling Company	-	-	-
Noble Corporation	-	-	-
Fluor Corporation	-	-	\$25,609
Chevron	\$611,666,780	\$12,490,878	\$5,225,091
ExxonMobil	\$1,146,823,363	\$3,847,478	\$1,018,030
Ariel Corporation	-	\$25,000	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$37,994,957,969</b>	<b>\$88,182,902</b>	<b>\$52,379,451</b>

Source: [Good Jobs First Violation Tracker](#)

### **API's Board Members Are Responsible For Some Of The Worst Environmental Calamities In History**

#### **API Member BP America Caused The Deepwater Horizon Disaster In The Gulf Of Mexico. Has Paid \$20,800,000,000 In Penalties**

**Headline: Ten Years Later, BP Oil Spill Continues To Harm Wildlife – Especially Dolphins.”**  
 “On April 20, 2010, an explosion at the BP Deepwater Horizon oil rig released over 130 million gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico. It was the biggest oil spill ever in U.S. waters and remains one of the worst environmental disasters in world history. Eleven rig workers lost their lives. So did untold millions of marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, and fish. While the world watched, helpless, oil gushed into one of the planet’s most biodiverse marine habitats for 87 long days.” [National Geographic, [04/17/20](#)]

**On April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010, The Deepwater Horizon Drilling Rig Suffered A “Catastrophic Blowout,” Resulting In 11 Deaths And Sending More Than 3 Million Barrels Of Oil Into The Gulf OF Mexico.** “On April 10, 2010, less than 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana, the Macondo well suffered a catastrophic blowout. The ensuing explosion and fire destroyed the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, killing 11 men aboard and sending more than three million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico over a period of nearly three months. Oil flowed within deep ocean water currents hundreds of miles away from the blown-out well, resulting in oil slicks that extended across more than 43,000 square miles, affecting water quality and exposing aquatic plants and wildlife to harmful chemicals. Oil was deposited onto at least 400 square miles of the sea floor and washed up onto more than 1,300 miles of shoreline from Texas to Florida....The spill damaged and temporarily closed fisheries vital to the Gulf economy, oiled hundreds of miles of beaches, coastal wetlands and marshes and killed thousands of birds and

other marine wildlife, among other economic and natural resource injuries.” [Department of Justice Press Release, [10/05/15](#)]

- **The United States And Five Gulf States Announced A Settlement Of \$20.8 Billion.** “The United States today joins the five Gulf states in announcing a settlement to resolve civil claims against BP arising from the April 20, 2010 Macondo well blowout and the massive oil spill that followed in the Gulf of Mexico. This global settlement resolves the governments’ civil claims under the Clean Water Act and natural resources damage claims under the Oil Pollution Act, as well as economic damage claims of the five Gulf states and local governments. Taken together this global resolution of civil claims is worth \$20.8 billion, and is the largest settlement with a single entity in the department’s history.” [Department of Justice Press Release, [10/05/15](#)]

### **Anadarko Petroleum, Which Is an Acquisition Of API Member Occidental Petroleum, Agreed To Pay A \$5.15 Billion Settlement To Cleanup 2,000 Environmentally Damaged Sites**

**Anadarko Petroleum Agreed To Pay A \$5.15 Billion Settlement For Waste Spread Across 2,000 Sites, Including Radioactive Waste On The Navajo Nation.** “Anadarko Petroleum Corp’s agreement to pay \$5.15 billion to clean up nuclear fuel and other pollution received approval from a federal judge on Monday, the final hurdle for the settlement touted by the U.S. Department of Justice as the largest-ever environmental cleanup recovery. The lawsuit, which was joined by the U.S. Department of Justice, alleged Tronox’s 2009 bankruptcy was caused by the environmental liabilities it took on when Kerr-McGee spun it off in 2005. It said the spinoff was a scheme by Kerr-McGee to get the liabilities off its books and make itself a more attractive takeover target for Anadarko, which acquired it in 2006. The money will fund a wide array of projects across some 2,000 U.S. sites, including \$1 billion for the Navajo Nation to address radioactive contamination from Kerr-McGee’s old uranium mining operation.” [Reuters, [11/10/14](#)]

**The Settlement Resolved Fraudulent Conveyance Claims Against Anadarko.** “A historic settlement reached with Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and Kerr McGee has gone into effect, allowing funds to be disbursed for cleanups across the country, announced Assistant Attorney General John C. Cruden for the Department of Justice’s Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara of the Southern District of New York, and Assistant Administrator Cynthia Giles of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). .... This settlement resolves fraudulent conveyance claims brought by the United States and the Anadarko Litigation Trust, the trust against Anadarko Petroleum Corporation and its affiliates, the defendants, in the bankruptcy of Tronox Inc. and its subsidiaries. Today, pursuant to the settlement agreement, the defendants paid \$5.15 billion, plus interest, to the trust. The trust is expected to distribute more than \$4.4 billion to fund environmental clean-up and for environmental claims. The settlement constitutes the largest payment for the clean-up of environmental contamination ever obtained in a lawsuit brought by the Department of Justice.” [Department of Justice Press Release, [01/23/15](#)]

- **Anadarko Has Since Been Acquired By Occidental Petroleum, Another API Board Member Company.** “Occidental Petroleum today announced the successful completion of its acquisition of Anadarko Petroleum in a transaction valued at \$55 billion, including the assumption of Anadarko’s debt. ‘With Anadarko’s world-class asset portfolio now officially part of Occidental, we begin our work to integrate our two companies and unlock the significant value of this combination for shareholders,’ said Vicki Hollub, president and Chief Executive Officer. ‘We expect to deliver at least \$3.5 billion annually in cost and capital spending synergies and the focus of our Board and management team is on execution to achieve the promise of this exciting combination. We look forward to updating the market on our continued progress in the months ahead.” [World Oil, [08/08/19](#)]

### **API Member ExxonMobil Paid \$589,400,000 For Civil Penalties, Emissions Reductions And Supplemental Environmental Projects.**

**ExxonMobil Reached A Clean Air Agreement Act To Reduce Emissions By More Than 53,000 Tons Per Year At Its Seven US-based Petroleum Refineries.** “ExxonMobil has reached a comprehensive Clean Air Act (CAA) agreement that is expected to reduce harmful air emissions by more than 53,000 tons per year at the company’s seven United States petroleum refineries, the Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today. The seven refineries, located in five states, represent approximately 11 percent of the total refining capacity in the U.S. Today’s settlement is the 17th in a joint DOJ-EPA initiative to reduce pollution in domestic petroleum refineries nationwide, bringing nearly 77 percent of domestic refining capacity under consent decree. These settlements were reached without litigation as the companies agreed to work with the government in reaching settlements that would protect the environment and allow refiners to expand fuel production in compliance with the environmental laws.” [Department of Justice Press Release, [10/11/05](#)]

- **The Estimated Capital Cost Of The Program Was \$571 Million.** “Today’s settlement was reached through the lodging of two separate consent decrees, which require ExxonMobil to install and implement innovative control technologies, reducing annual emissions of harmful toxins that can cause serious respiratory problems and exacerbate cases of childhood asthma. As a result of the agreement, emissions of nitrogen oxide (NOx) will be reduced by nearly 11,000 tons per year and sulfur dioxide (SO2) by more than 42,000 tons per year. In addition, the company will upgrade its leak detection and repair practices, minimize flaring of hazardous gases, reduce emissions from its sulfur recovery plants and adopt strategies to ensure the proper handling of hazardous benzene wastes at each refinery. ExxonMobil has estimated that the capital cost of the injunctive relief program will be approximately \$571 million.” [Department of Justice Press Release, [10/11/05](#)]
- **The Agreement Also Required ExxonMobil To Pay \$8.7 Million In Civil Penalties And Spend Another \$9.7 Million In Supplemental Environmental Projects.** “Three states have also joined in today’s settlement: Illinois, Louisiana, and Montana. Under the terms of the agreement, ExxonMobil will pay \$8.7 million in civil penalties, and spend

an additional \$9.7 million on Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) in communities around the company's refineries. As partners in the settlement, the states of Illinois, Louisiana, and Montana will share in the civil penalties." [Department of Justice Press Release, [10/11/05](#)]

### **Tesoro Corp, Which Is A Subsidiary Of API Member Marathon Petroleum, Paid \$425,000,000 To Settle Clean Air Act Violations.**

#### **Tesoro Corp. Subsidiaries Paid A \$425 Million Settlement To Settle Clear Act Violations.**

"The Department of Justice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced a \$425 million settlement with subsidiaries of Tesoro Corp., and Par Hawaii Refining that resolves alleged Clean Air Act violations and protects public health by reducing air pollution at six refineries. Under the settlement, the two companies will spend about \$403 million to install and operate pollution control equipment, and Tesoro will spend about \$12 million to fund environmental projects in local communities previously impacted by pollution. Tesoro will also pay a \$10.45 million civil penalty. [Department of Justice Press Release, [07/18/16](#)]

- **Tesoro Also Had To Pay A Civil Penalty Of \$10.45 Million.** "Today's settlement, a consent decree lodged in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, includes provisions that resolves ongoing Clean Air Act violations at refineries in Kenai, Alaska; Martinez, California; Kapolei, Hawaii; Mandan, North Dakota; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Anacortes, Washington. Of the \$10.45 million civil penalty that Tesoro will pay, the United States will receive \$8,050,000, and co-plaintiffs including the states of Alaska and Hawaii, and the Northwest Clean Air Agency will share \$2.4 million." [Department of Justice Press Release, [07/18/16](#)]

### **API Member Chevron Paid \$278,000,000 To Install Technologies To Control Emissions And To Settle A Civil Penalty.**

**Chevron Paid A Settlement Of \$275 Million And A \$3.5 Million Civil Penalty.** "The Justice Department and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced a comprehensive Clean Air Act settlement with Chevron U.S.A. Inc. The settlement is expected to reduce harmful air emissions by almost 10,000 tons per year from five U.S. petroleum refineries that represent more than five percent of the total refining capacity in the United States....A consent decree filed today in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, Calif., will require Chevron to spend an estimated \$275 million to install and implement innovative control technologies to reduce emissions at its refineries. Chevron's actions under this agreement will reduce annual emissions of nitrogen oxide (NOx) by approximately 3,300 tons and sulfur dioxide (SO2) by approximately 6,300 tons. The air pollutants addressed by today's agreements can cause serious respiratory problems and exacerbate cases of childhood asthma...Chevron also will pay a \$3.5 million civil penalty and spend more than \$4 million on further emissions controls and other environmental projects in communities around the company's refineries. The states of Hawaii, Mississippi, and Utah, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District will share in the cash



penalties and the benefits of the environmental projects to be performed by Chevron.”  
[Department of Justice Press Release, [10/16/03](#)]

<b>The American Petroleum Institute (API) Members Have Also Paid \$88,182,902 In Employment Violations And \$52,379,451 In Safety Violations</b>
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**API Member Chevron Paid \$5,571,435 In An Employment Discrimination Case.**

**Chevron Paid A Former Employee \$5.5 Million After Being Found Guilty Of Retaliation.** “A former Chevron Corp. employee was awarded \$5.5 million by a San Francisco federal court jury that found Chevron liable for retaliation and wrongful termination....Kiran Pande, who holds a Ph.D. in petroleum engineering from Stanford University, was fired by Chevron in late 2003 after 15 years with the company. After a three-week trial stemming from incidents that occurred between September 2000 and December 2003, the jury found that Chevron retaliated against Pande after she complained about discrimination and fired her for reasons that violated a public policy. It did not find Chevron guilty of interfering with Pande's right to medical leave. Pande was awarded roughly \$3 million for past and future economic losses, and \$2.5 million in punitive damages.” [East Bay Times, [10/30/07](#)]

**API Member BP America Paid \$13,027,000 To Resolve Citations Of Occupational Safety & Health Administration Citations.**

**BP Agreed To Pay \$13,027,000 In Penalties By The End Of 2012.** “The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration today announced that OSHA and BP Products North America Inc. have resolved 409 of the 439 citations issued by the agency in October 2009 for willful violations of OSHA's process safety management standard at BP's refinery in Texas City, Texas. Under the agreement, BP will pay \$13,027,000 in penalties, and already has abated or will abate all existing violations by the end of 2012.” [Occupational Safety & Health Administration Press Release, [07/12/12](#)]