

# Calhoun Group OKs Petition Seeking Formosa Impact Study

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SEADRIFT — A proposal to circulate a petition requesting an environmental impact study on Formosa's \$1.7 billion plant to be built at Point Comfort was approved at a Calhoun County Resource meeting Thursday night.

Diane Wilson, CCRW president, suggested that a door-to-door membership campaign should be launched and that the petition could be circulated at that time.

If an environmental impact study is not requested, only a less-detailed environmental assessment will be done, Mrs. Wilson said.

She acknowledged that if CCRW's request for an impact study was granted, it could delay the Formosa project by as much as 18 months.

A notice concerning the environmental assessment and Formosa's application for a permit from the Texas Water Commission will be published between November and February, she said.

Rick Abraham, executive director

of Texans United, advised them to launch the door-to-door campaign, Mrs. Wilson said, at a Houston workshop attended by her and CCRW officers Donna Sue Williams, Sabrina Williams and Peggy Dworaczyk.

A local workshop will be conducted to train the CCRW's representatives that will participate in the membership drive and circulation of the petition.

Mrs. Wilson expressed outrage that Formosa was only fined \$6,500 recently by the Texas Air Control Board for a 1,400-pound release of vinyl chloride in February and a 1,600-pound release in March.

Formosa also had unauthorized releases of vinyl chloride on one occasion each in 1986 and 1988 and on three occasions in 1987, she said.

She added that Texas Air Control Board attorney Larry Moon said no health problems at that level of release but that the fine was levied because better operating procedures would have prevented the release.

It was also noted at the meeting that the public hearing on Union

Carbide's request to amend their landfill permit has been set for 10 a.m. Nov. 15 at the Seadrift City Hall.

She said during a tour of Union Carbide's facility with Jack Battalora, he acknowledged that an existing landfill had leached into an aquifer at a depth of 18 feet.

At that level he advised her, she said, the water was not potable and would not be used by anyone for drinking water.

She and others at the meeting expressed concern that the wells on their farms at 22 to 24 feet deep were not much deeper than the leakage from Union Carbide's landfills.