

*EPA Region 6
Resource Conservation Challenge
Pilot Projects*



GENERAL INFORMATION

Facility Name: BASF Freeport
Facility Location: Freeport, Texas
Project Start Date: 10/23/03

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

BASF Freeport (Texas) identified a commercial market in the carbon black industry for one of the site's process streams, EP-530, which has been typically shipped offsite for fuels blending or incineration. Though the material contains chromium at levels that are sufficient to cause it to exhibit the characteristic of a hazardous waste, it does not contain chromium at levels that exceed those found in material normally used as ingredients in that manufacturing process. In this first year, the project is expected to keep 10 million pounds of material from disposal, and is expected to have a net positive effect on the facility's bottom line of approximately \$750,000, which is the result of the savings on transportation and incineration costs, and the earnings from selling the material. The potential for future waste reduction could be as high as 28 million pounds per year.

EP-530 meets all product specifications for carbon black feedstock (CBFS) and has additional environmental benefits including:

- < **Minimizing SO₂ air emissions during the carbon black manufacturing process.** EP-530 is extremely low in sulfur (0.02 percent) as compared to other carbon black feedstocks (1 percent).
- < **Conserving valuable energy resources.** At 11,000 btu/pound, considerable energy resources are being conserved through this process.
- < **Reducing chromium air emissions as opposed to the current waste incineration process.** The very nature of the carbon black process minimizes particulate emissions to air and water by incorporating these elements into the product.
- < **Offsetting dwindling supplies of coal tar in the North American CBFS market.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

BASF: Steve Baxter, (979) 415-8126
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6: Kathleen Aisling, (214) 665-8423
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality: Jeff Voorhis, (512) 239-3178