

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATE: April 13, 2006

CONTACT: James Honerman  
(651) 284-5313

## **Flint Hills Resources recognized as MNSTAR worksite April 18**

Workplace safety and health representatives from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) will recognize Flint Hills Resources – Pine Bend Refinery for its achievements as a MNSTAR (Minnesota Star) worksite during a ceremony at 11 a.m., April 18, in Rosemount, Minn. The location will be 12555 Clark Road, Gate 5, in the visitor lobby.

MNSTAR is a Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MNOSHA) program that recognizes companies where managers and employees work together to develop safety and health management systems that go beyond basic compliance with all applicable OSHA standards and result in immediate and long-term prevention of job-related injuries and illnesses.

“Flint Hills Resources is now recognized as one of the state’s best worksites for safety and health,” said Scott Brener, Department of Labor and Industry commissioner. “We are pleased at the commitment the company has shown to make workplace safety and health a priority.”

Flint Hills Resources has worked with MNOSHA’s Workplace Safety Consultation to aim for the MNSTAR level and to help identify and eliminate current or future safety hazards. Key elements of this comprehensive program include: management leadership and employee involvement; an allocation of resources to address safety issues; systems that identify and control workplace hazards; and a plan for employee safety training and education.

“At Flint Hills Resources, safety is a top priority and essential to our success as a business,” said Jeff Wilkes, refinery manager and vice president of Minnesota operations. “Recognition as a MNSTAR worksite is a significant safety accomplishment by our employees, the United Steelworkers union and company management, and I thank everyone for their ongoing commitment to safety.”

Flint Hills Resources is a leading provider of gasoline, diesel and other transportation fuels for Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. Its Rosemount refinery processes about 280,000 barrels of crude oil a day and employs approximately 800 employees. Headquartered in Wichita, Kan., Flint Hills Resources is an independent refining and chemicals company with facilities in Minnesota, Texas, Alaska and Illinois.

Brener and other DLI representatives will commemorate the company’s employee-employer relationship by presenting a MNSTAR flag and a certificate that exempts the facility for three years from MNOSHA Compliance scheduled inspections.

MNSTAR began in Minnesota in January 1999, and is modeled after the federal OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), which began in 1982. Flint Hills Resources is the 16th MNSTAR worksite in Minnesota. There are currently more than 900 companies nationwide that have met the program requirements. For more information, visit [www.doli.state.mn.us/mnstar.html](http://www.doli.state.mn.us/mnstar.html).

– ### –

Please visit our Web site at [www.doli.state.mn.us](http://www.doli.state.mn.us).