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Koch Carbon Earns Top Safety Designation

LONG BEACH, Calif. – Koch Carbon, LLC’s petroleum coke handling facility was awarded the California Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) STAR during a ceremony today. The award was given by the California Department of Industrial Relations, a division of the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) and recognizes the company’s and facility’s outstanding safety and operational record and programs.

“To achieve STAR status, it takes employee enthusiasm, safety awareness, and genuine management commitment to employee well being,” said Iraj Pourmehraban, Cal/OSHA VPP area manager. “I commend Koch Carbon for its excellent work and dedication to workplace safety at its Long Beach facility.”

The California VPP STAR recognizes employers and their employees who have voluntarily implemented safety and health programs that effectively prevent and control occupational hazards. The programs go beyond minimal regulatory standards and provide the best feasible protection at the site. Cal/OSHA VPP STAR establishments are considered to be leaders in the field of workplace safety and health. Including Koch Carbon, there are 70 VPP sites in California flying the STAR flag.

According to Pat Baldwin, vice president of operations for Koch Carbon, “Health and safety is a top priority at all our facilities. Our employees’ hard work and diligence in developing and implementing a strong management system made this achievement possible.” Baldwin added that Long Beach is the fourth Koch Carbon facility to attain VPP STAR status. The company’s Pittsburg, Calif., facility earned STAR recognition in 2008. The company’s Corpus Christi, Texas; and affiliate C. Reiss Coal Company’s Green Bay, Wis.; facilities also have earned VPP STAR status.

Koch Carbon operates a dry bulk facility within The Port of Long Beach. The facility is used to export petroleum coke and prilled sulfur. Materials are produced by local refineries and trucked to the Koch Carbon facility for export via ocean going vessels. Storage silos on site are used to stage petroleum coke prior to loading. Koch Carbon has a contract with American Plant Services (APS) to provide operations labor at the facility. Both Koch Carbon and APS were awarded STAR status with Cal/OSHA.

Candidates for the Cal/VPP STAR program are required to complete a rigorous health and safety program and review. There are five key elements to achieve induction into the program, including management commitment, worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, health and safety training, and continual improvement.

“This is another step toward achieving our 10,000 percent compliance goal – with 100 percent of employees fully complying with the law and regulations 100 percent of the time,” said Scott Lebbin, operations manager at the facility. “I want to congratulate and thank the terminal employees and the Koch Carbon safety team.”

Koch Carbon, LLC and its affiliates globally trade and transport petroleum coke, coal, cement, sulfur, salt and other related commodities through a network of bulk import/export terminals in the United States and Europe.