

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ASKS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW TEXACO LAWSUIT \$10 BILLION JUDGMENT COULD IMPACT EL DORADO OPERATION

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced he has requested the Justice Department to conduct a thorough review of a lawsuit against Texaco, Inc., that could spell financial trouble for the oil giant's operations, including its refinery in El Dorado.

As early as tomorrow, a Texas state judge could enter a judgment against Texaco in the amount of \$10.53 billion, in a suit initiated by Pennzoil Company. It is reported to be the largest civil judgment ever. Under Texas state law, Texaco could then be required to post a bond of \$12 billion while it pursues an appeal. If Texaco is unable to post the bond, its assets could be seized and sold while the case is still being appealed. As of Sept. 30, Texaco's total net worth was \$13.5 billion.

"I am very concerned about the impact this case could have on Texaco operations throughout the country, particularly its refinery in El Dorado," Dole said. "That's why I have asked the Attorney General to immediately review the case, particularly the areas of national security and interstate commerce and Constitutional protections, including due process. It may be that Justice Department action can help ensure this matter is brought to a timely and fair conclusion and that federal interests are adequately protected. We've worked hard to make sure Texaco has a home in Kansas, and I'll continue to work to that end."

In 1984, Dole went to bat for Kansas and helped secure a personal long-term commitment from Texaco to operate and maintain the former Getty refinery in El Dorado where 1,000 Kansans are employed.

"Texaco is the nation's third largest oil company, operating in more than 150 countries. Obviously, a coerced sale of Texaco's major assets could be very disruptive and should not be required unless there is assurance that all legal issues have been fully and fairly resolved through the appellate process."