

Environment

State Lands Commission holds town hall meeting regarding Platform Holly

Plains All American also appeared in court Monday

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Platform Holly off the coast of the Santa Barbara coast. (John Palminteri / KEYT.com)

GOLETA, Calif. - The States Lands Commission staff held a town hall meeting on Monday to update the community on Platform Holly, Piers 421, and the Ellwood Onshore Facility at Goleta City Hall.

The Commission staff discussed their efforts to plug and abandon the oil and gas wells at Platform Holly and Piers 421. Staff also provided an update on Venoco LLC's bankruptcy proceedings and the Ellwood Onshore Facility.

Opponents of offshore drilling held a rally before the town hall meeting in front of city hall. The rally was supported by 350 Santa Barbara, the Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club, Food and Water Watch and other concerned Santa Barbara County residents.

"Today's Venoco hearing highlights how oil companies take the profits from our coast and public lands and leave us with the toxic mess," said Sharon Broberg of 350SB. "When we taxpayers have to dig deep for money for cleanup, that means we have less to spend on things like parks, schools, and healthcare. It just shows, it's time to move to renewable energy."

Platform Holly and the Ellwood Onshore Processing Facility were idled following the 2015 failure of an onshore pipeline near Refugio State Beach. An oil spill affected local beaches and killed hundreds of marine mammals and birds.

Plains All American Pipeline is currently seeking permits from Santa Barbara County and state agencies to rebuild the pipeline, according to the opponents of offshore drilling.

Monday was also the first day of the Plains All American Pipeline trial in Santa Barbara Superior Court. Prosecutors will try to prove the company knew that there was a line above Refugio Beach was vulnerable to rupture.

The Houston-based Company took responsibility for the spill, clean-up, and repair, but says it has not committed a crime.

The next court date is Thursday, May 17.

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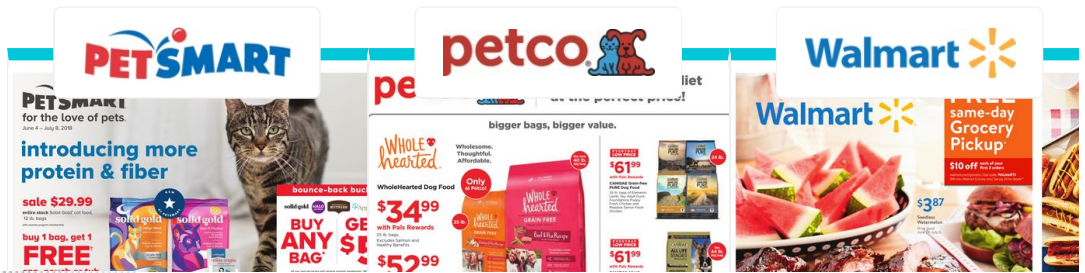
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