

# VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT

*UNITED STATES V. BP Products North America, Inc.  
CASE N. 4:07:CR00434*

On February 4, 2008, BP Products North America Inc (“BP Products”) will plead guilty and be sentenced regarding incidents arising from the catastrophic explosion at the Texas City Refinery occurring on March 23, 2005. Under the signed plea agreement, which is subject to court approval, BP Products will admit that it knowingly failed to design and implement procedures to ensure the mechanical integrity of equipment in the Isomerzation Unit, including the Raffinate Splitter, F-20 Blowdown Stack, Relief Valve and Vent Systems, and Critical Alarms, and that these failures led to the explosion on march 23, 2005. BP Products will further admit that it knowingly failed to warn contractor employees of the dangers associated with placing temporary trailers in the vicinity of blowdown stacks.

You have been identified and your contact information was forwarded to the United States Attorney’s Office as potential victim in this case. Any victim of a crime has certain rights under federal law including the right to be notified of the convictions of the defendants and the right to be reasonably heard at the sentencing of the defendants. *18 U.S.C. §3771 (a) and (b).*

The United States Department of Justice is obligated to use best efforts to locate and notify the victims of this crime and to inform them of their rights *18 U.S.C. §3771 (c). If you believe you are a victim of the actions of BP Products resulting in the March 23, 2005 explosion, please respond to the question below and return this form to the address provided.*

*(If you need more space to answer the following questions please feel free to use as much paper as you need, and simply attach those sheets of paper to this Victim Impact Statement. Thank you.)*

**Ronald D. Duhán**

*Victim Name*

c/o David L. Perry and René Haas  
Perry & Haas  
P.O. Box 1500  
Corpus Christi, TX 78403  
361/880-7514

**REDACTED**

1. *If you believe you have been affected by this crime, please explain how the criminal conduct of the defendant described above has affected you.*


It would be hard for me to express how the explosion on March 23, 2005 and the loss of my precious daughter Susan have affected my life. How the willful disregard of safety and human life by a company who has profited while my family has suffered. A loss that we can never recover from, we as a family are not whole because this greedy company didn't heed the warnings of the people that actually work at the plant. There is no penalty great enough to atone for the sins of these people. In our justice system if you kill someone you go to jail. If you are tried and found guilty you go to jail. What makes these people different? They killed fifteen innocent people negligently and willfully for the almighty dollar. And my life and the lives of my children, my grandchildren, my great grandchildren, her nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews, her coworkers, and her dear friends will never be the same.

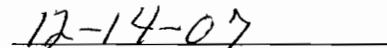
She was not just a daughter, mother, sister, aunt, friend and coworker. She was so much more. Susan was beautiful, smart and funny, she had a sense of humor that kept us all laughing. She had a special something with each one of her siblings and her brother and sister in law. She was so talented and creative. And like most creative people, cranky at times. She took her work very seriously very seriously in fact she was affectionately called the Bulldog on several jobs. She was a force to be reckoned with. She was passionate. She loved with her whole heart. Her friends you could count on one hand, because to be a true friend takes work. And all her other effort went to her son Michael, my grandson.

BP Products North America, Inc. did not just take away a name Susan Duhan Taylor. She and the 14 other people, that they just blatantly and negligently killed were people with lives and families that are left empty without them. I suffer everyday without my daughter, I watch my daughters Cheri and Leah suffer everyday without Susan. And they watch me. This is the industry we work in. Leah, lost not only her sister but her friends and coworkers, my son in law Mike had to identify what was left of my daughters remains. Clayte was there and tried to dig my daughter, his future wife out. These are not things that just go away. It is a never-ending saga that unfolds before our eyes each night on the evening news. We see how BP is such a generous supporter of community efforts, there name spattered all over town, like some kind of local hero's. It is sickening. This same community that they didn't care to spend monies necessary to protect now they are spending to support and make themselves look good.

Yes, the events of March 23, 2005 have affected my life. And changed it forever. It has taken away the happiness in every member of my family and every family gathering. They will always be empty. Our family will never again be whole. And why? Are people's lives worth so little to them that they don't even consider them in their equations of profit/loss? My prayer is that the court will sentence all of them like any other common mass murderers and that God may take pity on their souls.

*I declare under penalty of law that the above information is true and correct:*

  
Signature

  
Date


**1. If you believe you have been affected by this crime, please explain how the criminal conduct of the defendant described above has affected you.**

I am the father of Susan Taylor, who was killed by the explosion at the BP Texas City Refinery on March 23, 2005. She was working in the J.E. Merit trailer near the ISOM unit of the BP Texas City Refinery when the explosion happened. She was survived by her son and my grandson, Michael Jordan, who was sixteen years of age at the time of his mother's death.

I have asked that one of my attorneys, either David Perry or René Haas, of the law firm of Perry & Haas, be allowed to speak in court on my behalf. I want to object to the plea bargain which will be presented to the court, and want my attorney to be able to present, on my behalf, legal reasons why the punishment being suggested is inadequate and should be rejected by the Court.

*I declare under penalty of law that the above information is true and correct:*

  
Signature

  
Date