

B F GOODRICH

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Chemical plant TACB permit upheld

A state district court in Austin has refused to overturn a Texas Air Control Board construction permit for a controversial \$160 million chemical plant in the Bayport industrial complex.

Judge Charles Mathews rejected without comment an appeal by a Galveston Bay citizens group that the air board acted improperly in approving construction of the American Hoechst Corp. plant.

Mathews heard oral arguments last week on a suit by the Galveston Bay Conservation and Preservation Association.

Clark G. Thomson, the group's attorney, said the ruling will be appealed.

"We'll be appealing as long as we have a court to go

to," Thomson said. "And then if we have to, we'll start all over again when they apply for an operating permit for the plant."

The bayshore citizens have been fighting the German-owned chemical plant, under construction since May, for a year.

They contend pollution from the plant will be a hazard to nearby residential neighborhoods, and the air board did not adequately consider land use in upholding the permit last Feb. 24.

Hoechst officials and air board engineers say the styrene-polyethylene plant will be a model of pollution control with extremely low emissions.

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