

Texas EPA Czar Loves to "Crucify"™ Oil Companies

Contributed by Tom McGregor
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Texas EPA Czar, Al Armendariz, a professor at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, explained how he intends to "crucify" oil and gas companies if President Barack Obama gets re-elected to the White House. According to the Oklahoman, "Al Armendariz, a regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, explained in 2010 that he understands the EPA policy to be to "crucify" a few oil and gas companies to get the rest of the industry to comply with the laws."

During a meeting in 2010, the Texas EPA Czar said, "I was in a meeting once and I gave an analogy to my staff about my philosophy of enforcement. It's kind of like how the Romans used to conquer little villages in the Mediterranean: they'd go into little Turkish towns somewhere, they'd find the first five guys they run into, and they'd crucify them and then, you know, that town was really easy to manage over the next few years."

As reported by the Oklahoman, "Armendariz said that by finding companies that are "not compliant with the law and you make examples of them. The EPA could maximize its enforcement capability with limited resources. Fines can get very high very quickly, and that's what these companies respond to."

The EPA announced recently that Hess Corporation must pay an \$850,000 civil penalty and invest more than \$45 million in new pollution controls to abide by Clean Air Act violations at its Port Reading N.J. petroleum refinery.

To read the entire article from the Oklahoman, link here:Mcgregor@chinadaily.com.cn