

The logo consists of the words "STOP SEAFOOD CONTAMINATION" in white, uppercase letters, enclosed within a white square frame with rounded corners. The logo is positioned on an orange vertical bar that is part of a larger graphic at the top of the page. The graphic features a blue and green wavy background with a white horizontal line and a magnifying glass icon below the logo.

**STOP**  
**SEAFOOD**  
CONTAMINATION

## **Filthy Five: Olin Corporation Augusta, Georgia Plant**

The Olin Corporation, a publicly traded company based out of Clayton, Mo., owns and operates two of the five remaining chlor-alkali facilities in the United States that still have not committed to stop using mercury-cell technology. The company's Georgia facility is the smaller of the two and the other mercury-emitting facility is located in Charleston, Tenn. The plant releases hundreds of pounds of mercury pollution into the environment each year. Because it has refused to convert its remaining plants, both of which are major polluters, Oceana has dubbed Olin's Tennessee and Georgia plants as members of the Filthy Five.

### **Key Statistics on Olin, Augusta, Georgia**

- In 2005, the plant reported emitting 824 pounds of mercury into the air.
- The plant is the third largest source of mercury air pollution in the state (2005).
- In 2006, exceedingly high levels of mercury were found in the channel that leads from its water discharge pipe to the river. A high school student conducting a research project discovered the high levels, which Olin's own testing confirmed.
- Reported emissions from the plant increased by more than 10 percent between 2004 and 2005; mercury discharges into the Savannah River also increased by 35 percent during that same time period.
- Anticipated cleanup costs range from \$1 to \$13.2 million, depending on state and EPA requirements.
- It would cost the Augusta plant an estimated \$90 million to convert to mercury-free technology, the majority of which it could recover over a five-year period.

### **Benefits of Switching**

- Although the cost of converting to mercury-free technology runs in the millions, analysis shows that the majority of these costs would be recouped within five years due to energy savings, increased capacity and eliminating millions of dollars in fines, upgrades and cleanups.
- Over five years, shifting to mercury-free technology could save the company more than \$17.6 million in electricity costs.
- A 25 percent increase in energy efficiency at this facility would save enough electricity to power 7,350 average-sized American homes.
- Most plants that convert to mercury-free technology increase capacity by about 25 percent. If Olin's plant increased capacity by that amount, the company could increase sales by nearly \$98.5 million over five years.
- The plant also could earn \$4.4 million in additional profit from increased sales due to energy savings.
- Being a responsible corporate citizen would benefit the company's finances, while at the same time safeguarding the health of its employees, the public and the environment.

<b>Cost to Switch:</b>	<b>\$ 90 million</b>
Costs of Using Mercury	\$ 1 million
Potential Additional Cleanup	\$ 13.2 million
Estimated Benefits (Over 5 years)	
Energy Savings	\$ 17.6 million
Waste Disposal	\$ 2 to 3.3 million
Monitoring	\$ 2 million
Wastewater Treatment	\$ 1.4 to 2.2 million
Capacity Increase (Over 5 years)	
Sales	\$ 98.5 million
Energy Savings	\$ 4.4 million

In addition to the two Olin plants, the three other chlorine plants that have not committed to going mercury-free are Ashta Chemicals in Ashtabula, Ohio; PPG Industries in Natrium, W.Va.; and ERCO Worldwide in Port Edwards, Wis.