

February 3, 2011  
News/Press Release

## **TRECEK COMPLETES \$16 MILLION SETTLEMENT ON TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF WEPCO EXPLOSION**

*Compensates eight victims seriously injured in 2009 explosion and fire*

MILWAUKEE —Timothy S. Trecek, of the Milwaukee office of Habush Habush & Rottier, SC, an attorney for eight victims of the Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCO) dust collector explosion, announced today, on the two-year anniversary of the WEPCO explosion, that a settlement has been reached. The defendants and their insurance companies have agreed to pay \$16 million in the settlement of the plaintiffs' claims.

On February 3, 2009, an explosion and resulting fire occurred in a dust collector at the WEPCO facility in Oak Creek. Eight ThyssenKrupp Safway employees were building scaffolding inside the dust collector at the time of the explosion. The Safway employees had been hired by United States Fire Protection, Inc. to build the scaffolding, so that the following day, employees of United States Fire Protection, Inc. could repair the fire suppression system inside the coal dust collector. OSHA regulations and both companies' internal policies required that coal dust must be removed from the dust collector hopper before the employees entered, however this vital procedure was not completed. The coal dust that was left in the hopper became airborne, landed on a boiler light that was being used for the job and resulted in an explosion and resulting fire. As a result of the explosion, the eight workers suffered varying serious and permanent injuries.

All eight workers hired Timothy S. Trecek, of the Milwaukee office of Habush Habush & Rottier SC, and a lawsuit was filed. The suit named as defendants Wisconsin Electric Power Company, United States Fire Protection, Inc. and a number of insurance companies and re-insurers.

"Habush Habush & Rottier has a reputation for obtaining justice for those who are seriously injured due to the neglect of others," said Attorney Timothy S. Trecek. "We are proud to continue the reputation we have developed through cases like the Miller Park tragedy and the Falk explosion, and achieve results for the eight victims of the WEPCO explosion."

Throughout the two-year process, 61 depositions were taken, 70 sets of legal discovery were exchanged between all parties, approximately 10,000 documents relative to the explosion were produced and 470 deposition exhibits were marked.