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Atchison company pleads guilty to violating Clean Air Act  
**(KAIR)--An Atchison company has pleaded guilty to violating the federal Clean Air Act and is expected to pay a \$1 million fine.**

**U.S. Attorney Stephen McAllister, in a news release, said MGP Ingredients pleaded guilty Monday to a misdemeanor offense of negligently violating the Clean Air Act.**

**In its plea, the release says the company admitted that on Oct. 21, 2016, a greenish-yellow chlorine gas cloud formed over the city of Atchison when 4,000 gallons of sulfuric acid were mistakenly combined with 5,800 gallons of sodium hypochlorite.**

**The Atchison County Department of Emergency Management ordered community members to shelter in place and to evacuate in some areas. About 140 people sought medical attention.**

**A federal report blamed the leak on missing key rings on chemical storage tanks and a lack of attention to procedure.**

**Sentencing is set for Feb. 24. The company could be sentenced to a term of probation up to five years.**

Many Signals Communications