Located in Point Breeze, South Philadelphia, on the lower Schuylkill River, the Atlantic Refining Company was long a major economic player in the mid-Atlantic region and beyond. In the year 1891 after opening in 1866, the 360-acre site produced nearly 50% of the world’s refined petroleum and 35% of U.S. petroleum exports. These rosy economic facts concealed darker social and environmental conditions. Behind the scenes, laborers working in the intense heat of the refinery petitioned for the right to use company water to cool themselves off. Workplace widows such as Mary Carberry and Elizabeth Sides sought justice for their husbands. In addition to dangerous on-site working conditions, the Atlantic Refinery degraded the environmental quality of the city just to the north. The refinery was responsible for acid pools, contaminated river water, and poor air quality. Based on an analysis of the company’s first 50 years, the Atlantic Refinery combined innovation, efficiency, and expansion alongside hazard, injury, death, and pollution.