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05.19.04

Suit filed in El Paso settles out of court for millions

One of the world's largest appliance makers reached a \$30-million settlement before an El Paso jury began to deliberate.

Electrolux will pay a British inventor John North \$30-million to end his claim that Electrolux stole his design for an upright, bagless vacuum cleaner. North was seeking \$100-million dollars in damages.

North filed the suit in El Paso because he said he dealt with Electrolux through its Eureka vacuum cleaner plant in El Paso.

Electrolux said it decided to settle out of court to avoid the uncertainty of a jury verdict. The Stockholm-based company also denies that North's charge has any merit.

Electrolux brands include Frigidaire, Weedeater, and Eureka.