

Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL MINT PROCESSOR SENTENCED

South Bend, IN—The United States Attorney's Office announced:

Michael Materna, 56, of Hamlet, Indiana, was sentenced yesterday by Judge Jon DeGuilio to 2 years of supervised probation, 8 months of home detention, and a \$20,000 fine after pleading guilty to knowingly discharging pollutants without a permit in violation of the Clean Water Act.

Materna, doing business as Materna Mint Farms ("Materna Mint"), has been a mint grower and processor of mint oil in Walkerton, Indiana. As part of the mint oil processing by Materna in the summer of 2010, water that was heated to temperatures of 160 - 190 degrees Fahrenheit and amounts of mint oil were repetitively discharged from the Materna facility into a roadside ditch approximately 1/10 of a mile long and then into "Robbins Ditch," which is a permanent stream and water of the United States. Materna discharged the heated water and oil (pollutants) into the waters without an National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") discharge permit and in violation of applicable temperature limits.

These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Environmental Protection Agency-Criminal Investigation Division, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald Schmid.