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PRESS RELEASE

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Andrew T. Baxter, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, and John C. Cruden, Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division, announced today that, following a nine day trial in federal court in Syracuse, Paul Mancuso, 46, and Steven Mancuso, 38, both of Utica, NY, were found guilty NY for conspiracy to: (1) defraud the United States; (2) to violate the Clean Air Act; (3) to violate the Superfund Act; and (4) to commit mail fraud. Each of the underlying offenses was related to illegal asbestos removal activities at numerous locations throughout central and upstate New York. Paul Mancuso was also convicted of four additional counts violating the Clean Air Act, and two counts of violating the Superfund Act.

Immediately prior to trial, Lester Mancuso, 71, Utica, NY, father of Paul and Steven, pled guilty to participating in the conspiracy, admitting that he conspired with his sons to conduct numerous illegal activities related to Paul's asbestos business.

Ronald Mancuso, also a brother of Paul and Steven Mancuso and the son of Lester

Mancuso, pled guilty in federal district court on October 2, 2008 to a conspiracy to violate the Superfund Act. Among other things, Ronald Mancuso admitted being involved in activities associated with the illegal dumping of the asbestos in open fields in Poland, NY.

In 2003 Paul Mancuso was convicted of violations of the Clean Air Act related to illegal asbestos removal and disposal activities. In 2004 he was convicted of insurance fraud related to his prior asbestos business. As a result of his convictions, he was prohibited from directly or indirectly engaging in any asbestos abatement activities. He was also prohibited from associating with anyone who was engaged in any violations of law.

In order to circumvent these restrictions, Paul Mancuso moved his illegal asbestos business into his brother Steven's law firm, where he believed law enforcement personnel would be unable to search or otherwise track his actions. The evidence established that Paul Mancuso set up companies in the names of relatives and associates to hide his continued involvement in the asbestos removal business. Steven aided Paul's illegal asbestos activities by preparing false and fraudulent documents in an effort to make it appear that their activities were legal. Paul and his family thereafter engaged in numerous illegal asbestos abatement projects that contaminated various schools, businesses and homes. Paul and Ronald had workers dump asbestos from multiple jobs in fields of unsuspecting property owners. Paul also had a former employee severely beaten by "enforcers" for threatening to report him to the EPA.

Paul Mancuso now faces a maximum possible penalty of 55 years in jail and a fine of \$2,750,000. Steve and Lester Mancuso face a maximum possible penalty of 5 years in jail, and a fine of \$250,000. Ronald Mancuso faces a maximum possible penalty of 3 years in

jail, and a fine of \$250,000.

Asbestos has been determined to cause lung cancer, asbestosis and mesothelioma, an invariably fatal disease. The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Environmental Protection Agency and Investigators of the New York State (NYS) Department of Environmental Conservation. Assistance was provided by the NYS Department of Labor, Asbestos Control Bureau; the NYS Worker's Compensation Board, Office of Fraud Inspector General; and the NYS Insurance Fund, Division of Confidential Investigations. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Craig A. Benedict and Todd W. Gleason, Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, Environmental Crimes Section.