



Department of Justice

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, announced today that **THOMAS SCHNELLER**, age 53, of Ogdensburg, New York entered a guilty plea today, Tuesday, July 3, 2012, before the Hon. David N. Hurd, U.S. District Court Judge.

THOMAS SCHNELLER, a millwright for the U.S. Department of Transportation, Saint Lawrence Seaway, admitted to defrauding the U.S. Department of Labor of \$84,987 by making false statements and representations to obtain federal workers compensation benefits. The offense carries a maximum sentence of 5 years incarceration, a \$250,000 fine, a term of supervised release of three years, and a special assessment of \$100.

In entering his guilty plea, **SCHNELLER** admitted that he falsely represented that he was not employed, self-employed, or involved in any business enterprise during periods of time between August 2006 through November 2008 when he was collecting federal workers compensation benefits. **SCHNELLER** worked for his own company, AKJ Marine, a marine contracting firm that specialized in docks, boat lifts, seawalls, and pile driving along the St. Lawrence river while collecting federal workers compensation benefits.

Sentencing has been set for November 16, 2012, in Utica, New York.

This case was jointly investigated by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General.

Further information regarding this case can be obtained by contacting Assistant United States Attorney Tamara Thomson at (315) 448-0672.

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