



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
ELLEN DAVIS,  
CARLY SULLIVAN,  
JERIKA RICHARDSON  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600

**CONVICTED ASBESTOS INVESTIGATOR SENTENCED  
IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT TO 27 MONTHS IN PRISON  
FOR VIOLATING TERMS OF SUPERVISED RELEASE AND LYING  
TO THE PROBATION OFFICE**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that PETER WARD, formerly a licensed asbestos investigator, was sentenced today in Manhattan federal court to months in prison for repeated violations of the conditions of his supervised release that were imposed following his 2006 conviction for asbestos-related violations of the Clean Air Act. U.S. District Judge NAOMI REICE BUCHWALD imposed today's sentence.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "Peter Ward is a recidivist offender who acted like he was above the law. With today's sentence, a man who defied environmental laws and demonstrated a blatant disregard for the judicial system, got what he deserved."

According to the Information, statements made during court proceedings, and documents submitted in court:

For most of the early 1990s until July 2005, WARD held a New York City Asbestos Investigator's license. In July 2005, the license was revoked. WARD operated two companies, TUC Environmental Group, Inc. ("TUC"), and Oak Drive Enterprises, Inc. ("Oak Drive"), neither of which were licensed to perform asbestos-related work since 2002.

In 2006, WARD was convicted in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York of Clean Air Act violations involving asbestos-related conduct, specifically, failing to provide EPA with written notice of intention to remove asbestos material at least ten working days before the work

began. He was sentenced by Judge BUCHWALD to 27 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release, with conditions of release including:

- that WARD submit truthful and complete monthly reports to the U.S. Probation Officer concerning his employment;
- that WARD provide the Probation Officer with access to any requested financial information; and
- that WARD not engage in any employment that involved asbestos material.

In February 2008, WARD completed his term of incarceration, and was on supervised release, under the jurisdiction of the Probation Office.

From May 2008 through the summer of 2010, WARD submitted mandatory "Monthly Supervision Reports" to the Probation Office that bore his signature. The reports were on a Probation Office form containing a warning that making false statements was a crime subject to criminal and other potential penalties. The form also included a certification of completeness and correctness. Among other things, each report included a "Monthly Financial Statement" which purported to set forth WARD's earnings from employment, and to include as attachments, documentation constituting proof of his earnings.

From spring 2008 through July 2010, WARD, operating through TUC and Oak Drive, engaged in asbestos-related employment in violation of the conditions of his release. In order to conceal his asbestos work from the Probation Office, and contrary to the certifications of completeness and correctness referred to above, he repeatedly submitted Monthly Supervision Reports to the Probation Office that were incomplete and incorrect by:

- failing to submit any documentation reflecting certain earnings from asbestos-related work;
- failing to submit documentation showing that certain earnings he did report related in whole or part to asbestos-related work; and
- submitting documentation that misleadingly characterized certain work that was in fact asbestos-related as something else.

On March 4, 2011, WARD pled guilty before U.S. District Judge P. KEVIN CASTEL, to a seventeen-count charging

him with filing seventeen false reports with the Probation Office regarding his asbestos-related employment. Four days later, on March 8, 2011, WARD pled guilty before Judge NAOMI REICE BUCHWALD to repeatedly lying to the U.S. Probation Office by falsely describing his work as unrelated to asbestos.

Just weeks after his guilty pleas, WARD continued to engage in asbestos-related work. Between March 17, 2011, and March 20, 2011, WARD facilitated an asbestos removal at a location in the Upper Westside of Manhattan. On April 26, 2011, after the Government advised Judge BUCHWALD of this activity, she revoked WARD's bail and ordered that he be remanded to United States Marshal custody on May 3, 2011. WARD self-surrendered as ordered.

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WARD, 48, of the Bronx, New York, was sentenced to six months in prison for the supervised release violation and 21 months in prison for the false statements charge. The sentences will run consecutively.

In addition to the prison term, Judge BUCHWALD sentenced WARD, to years of supervised release, and ordered him to pay a \$2,000 fine and a \$1,700 special assessment.

Mr. BHARARA praised the work of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division.

This case is being handled by the Office's Complex Frauds Unit. Assistant United States Attorney JANIS ECHENBERG is in charge of the prosecution.

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