



Monthly

Bulletin

Environmental Crimes Section

January 2020

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Send your federal case updates to: [REDACTED]

Spent blasting material stored illegally in warehouse. See *U.S. v. Williams*, [inside](#), for more details on this case.

District of Alaska	United States v. Christopher L. Gordon	Polar Bear Killing/ MMPA
Eastern District of California	United States v. Joseph D. Sanford	Gamecock Fighting/ Animal Welfare Act
District of Delaware	United States v. Evridiki Navigation, Inc., et al.	Vessel/ APPS, False Statement, Obstruction
Middle District of Florida	United States v. Chad Ponce	Swordfish Killing/ESA
	United States v. Michael P. Ellard	Turtle Sales/Lacey Act
	United States v. Nicholas Skaroulis	Sponge Sales/ESA
Middle District of Georgia	United States v. Jaron Coleman	Fuel Dumping/CWA
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Southern District of Illinois	United States v. Lawrence Rutledge	Chemical Manufacturer/RCRA
District of Kansas	United States v. Arthur Wolfe	Drinking Water Reports/ Falsifying Official Certificates
Western District of Kentucky	United States v. Raymond Williams	Blasting Waste/RCRA
Eastern District of Louisiana	United States v. William McGinness et al.	Bird Trafficking/Conspiracy, Lacey Act
District of Massachusetts	United States v. Sea Harvest Inc., et al.	Vessel/CWA
District of Minnesota	United States v. Brett J. Stimac	Bear Killing/Hunting on Indian Land, Lacey Act
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Eastern District of North Carolina	United States v. William Juel	Discarding Evidence/Obstructing USCG Investigation
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Southern District of Ohio	United States v. Martin Eldridge	Hazardous Waste Dumping/ Conspiracy, RCRA
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District of South Dakota	United States v. Troy Fairbanks, et al.	Eagle and Hawk Sales/BGEPA, Conspiracy
Western District of Washington	United States v. Seattle Barrel and Cooperage Company, et al.	Wastewater Discharges/Conspiracy, CWA, False Statements
	United States v. Seven Seas Fish Company, Ltd. et al.	Fish Sales/Importing Adulterated Seafood
Western District of Wisconsin	United States v. James Kitzman et al.	Falcon Sale/Conspiracy
	United States v. Jeff Althoff	Deer Killing/Lacey Act

Trials

United States v. Evridiki Navigation, Inc., et al., No. 1:19-CR-00066 (D. Del.), ECS Trial Attorney Joel La Bissonniere, ECS Senior Litigation Counsel Richard Udell, ECS Senior Trial Attorney Ken Nelson, AUSA Edmund Falgowski, U.S.C.G. Lt. Cmdr. Ben Robinson, ECS Law Clerk Nate Borrelli, and ECS Paralegal Chloe Harris.

On December 19, 2019, a jury convicted Evridiki Navigation Inc., Liquimar Tankers Management Services Inc., (Liquimar Tankers) and Nikolaos Vastardis, of violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, falsifying ship's documents, obstructing a U.S. Coast Guard inspection, and making false statements to U.S. Coast Guard inspectors (33 U.S.C. § 1908(a); 18 U.S.C. §§ 1001, 1505, 1519). Sentencing is scheduled for April 6, 2020.

Evridiki Navigation and Liquimar Tankers owned and operated the *M/T Evridiki*, respectively. Vastardis worked as a Chief Engineer. On March 10, 2019, the ship arrived in Delaware Bay, to deliver a cargo of crude oil. During the Coast Guard inspection the following day, Vastardis attempted to operate the oily water separator (OWS), however oil content meter data recovered during the inspection proved that the crew routinely bypassed the system. Vastardis presented Coast Guard inspectors with a falsified oil record book, which did not include the illegal discharges. When the Coast Guard opened the vessel's OWS, they found it filled with copious amounts of oil and soot.

The U.S. Coast Guard conducted the investigation.



M/T Evridiki

Indictments/Informations

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United States v. Seattle Barrel and Cooperage Company, et al., No. 2:19-CR-00258 (W.D. Wash.), AUSA Seth Wilkinson and SAUSA Karla Perrin.

On December 18, 2019, a grand jury returned a 36-count indictment charging Seattle Barrel and Cooperage Company (Seattle Barrel), owner Louie Sanft, and plant manager, John Sanft, for illegally disposing of caustic pollutants into the King County sewer system for more than a decade. Trial is scheduled for March 16, 2020.

Seattle Barrel reconditions and resells used industrial and commercial drums. The reconditioning process includes submerging the barrels in a 300-gallon wash tank filled with a high pH caustic solution.

After observing John Sanft dumping oily material into the sewer in October 2012, King County officials conducted covert discharge monitoring between February and August 2013. Investigators determined that the company regularly violated its wastewater discharge permit for pH levels (not to exceed 12).

King County fined the company \$55,250, but later agreed to reduce the fine when the company agreed to install a pretreatment system. The county also issue an amplified discharge permit in 2014 to include submitting monthly self-monitoring reports among other new requirements.



Workers moving barrels — Courtesy of the [Seattle Times](#)

(Continued on page 5)

Indictments/Informations

(Continued from page 4)

Following the pretreatment system installation in 2016, Sanft submitted monthly reports claiming the facility now re-used all its wastewater on site. After a state inspector found irregularities during a plant inspection in November 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency conducted additional covert monitoring in 2018 and 2019 (including obtaining a search warrant for real-time monitoring).

The monitoring revealed ample evidence that Seattle Barrel continued to violate its permit by discharging high pH wastewater. The defendants used a portable pump to discharge solution from the wash tank to a hidden drain that led directly to the sewer system.

Prosecutors variously charged the defendants with conspiracy, violating the Clean Water Act, and making false statements (18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 1001(a)(2); 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319 (c)(4),(c)(2)(A), 1317).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigation Division conducted the investigation.

United States v. Joseph D. Sanford, No. 1:19-CR-00270 (E.D. Calif.), AUSA Karen Escobar, with assistance from ECS Trial Attorney Ethan Eddy.

On December 16, 2019, a grand jury returned a three-count indictment charging Joseph D. Sanford for his extensive involvement in cockfighting.

Sanford owns, operates, and resides at Joe Sanford Gamefarm (Gamefarm), a ten-plus acre property. He breeds and sells gamecocks for fighting across the country, as well as fights his own roosters. Following the undercover purchase of fighting birds, law enforcement officers searched the Gamefarm, discovering a large cockfighting enterprise consisting of close to 3,000 game fowl. They also seized medical equipment, including scalpels, syringes, thermometers, and medications used to remove the roosters' wattles, combs, spurs and other body parts.

Prosecutors charged Sanford with violating the Animal Welfare Act, unlawfully possessing animals for an animal fighting venture, and unlawfully selling animals for an animal fighting venture (18 U.S.C §§ 371, 49(a); 7 U.S.C. §2156(b)(f)).

Multiple agencies conducted the investigation, including: the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation; the U.S. Marshals Service; Homeland Security Investigations; the U.S. Forest Service; the Humane Society of the United States; the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office; the Placer County Animal Services, and the El Dorado County Animal Services.



Sanford's bird won the World Slasher Cup in 2008

Indictments/Informations

United States v. Brett J. Stimac, No. 19-mj-00818 (D. Minn.), AUSA Emily Polachek and SAUSA Gina Allery.

On December 6, 2019, prosecutors charged Brett J. Stimac with violating the Lacey Act and trespassing on Indian lands after shooting and killing a bear on the Red Lake Indian Reservation (16 U.S.C §§ 3372(a)(1), 3373(d)(2); 18 U.S.C. § 1165). Trial is scheduled to begin on February 24, 2020.



Black bear and compound bow

In September 2019, Stimac shot and killed an American black bear near the Reservation’s garbage dump. He also posted photos of himself and the bear’s carcass on Facebook. Stimac is not an enrolled member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

Stimac could not remove the large bear from the Reservation. Instead, he took the animal’s head and paws, along with a small portion of the meat and his bow, leaving the carcass to rot.

The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians forbid non-Indians to hunt bear, a clan animal, due to the animal’s spiritual significance.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Red Lake Department of Public Safety, the Red Lake Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, conducted the investigation.

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Guilty Pleas

United States v. James Kitzman et al., Nos. 3:19-mj-00138 (W.D. Wisc.), AUSA Daniel Graber.

On December 30, 2019, James Kitzman pleaded guilty to conspiring to violate the Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. § 371). Codefendant Edward Taylor entered a similar plea on December 10, 2019, and is scheduled for sentencing on February 25, 2020. Kitzman is set for March 2, 2020.

In late 2016 through August 2017, Kitzman and Taylor (both permitted falconers and raptor propagators), arranged to barter a northern goshawk taken from the wild in exchange for a captive-bred Finnish goshawk. Kitzman took a wild female northern goshawk from a nest in May 2018 and traded Taylor for the Finnish goshawk. They both falsified reports submitted to Michigan and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources officials to cover up their actions.

Regulations permit falconers to take raptors from the wild to train them and transfer them to other permitted falconers as “gifts”, but it is illegal to sell, trade, or barter a wild raptor.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Law Enforcement, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources conducted the investigation.

United States v. Jeff Althoff, No. 3:19-mj-00145 (W.D. Wisc.), AUSA Daniel Graber.

On December 30, 2019, former hunting guide Jeff Althoff, pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act for falsely labeling wildlife and transporting it across state lines (16 U.S.C §§ 3372(d) (2), 3373(d)(3)B)). Sentencing is scheduled for March 20, 2020.

In September 2018, Althoff submitted falsified documents to local wildlife officials claiming he killed a deer on public land. Althoff actually killed an adult antlered buck deer on private land at a game farm using a paid guide. He then transported the animal to a different county, and staged photos to make it appear he killed the buck on public land. Althoff posted pictures of the 172-inch antlered buck on his Facebook page claiming that he stalked the animal for hours, shot it at 32 yards, and that it took him four hours to drag it back to his truck. Althoff transported the falsely labeled buck from Wisconsin to Minnesota.



Defendant with deer posted on social media

(Continued on page 8)

Guilty Pleas

(Continued from page 7)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Law enforcement, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conducted the investigation.

United States v. Martin Eldridge, No. 2:19-CR-00252 (S.D. Ohio), AUSA Mike Marous.

On December 19, 2019, Martin Eldridge pleaded guilty to conspiracy and for violating the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act for illegally transporting and disposing of hazardous waste (18 U.S.C. § 371; 42 U.S.C. §§ 6928(d)(1), (d)(2)(A), (d)(5)).

In October 2018, contractor Khaled Ebrigit paid Eldridge \$400 to remove drums containing 'chemical substances' from behind a property purchased by Conrex Property Management, LLC. Eldridge removed three 55-gallon drums and 64 ten-gallon drums, most of which were clearly labeled "flammable" with detailed information regarding precautions to take when handling. Fluids leaked from many of the drums. Eldridge loaded the drums into his van and dropped them off next to dumpsters at several apartment complexes throughout Columbus.

Emergency personnel responded to reports of the illegal dumping, collecting the drums and performing site cleanup.

In November 2014, a court sentenced Eldridge to 31 months' incarceration, with credit for more than nine months' time served. Eldridge pleaded guilty violating the Clean Air Act for stealing air conditioning units and venting refrigerant into the environment.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigation Division conducted the investigation.



Hazardous waste drums dumped in parking lot

Guilty Pleas

***United States v. William McGinness et al.*, No. 2:18-CR-00118 (E.D. La.), ECS Trial Attorney Mary Dee Carraway, AUSA Melissa Bucher, ECS Paralegal Dan Hauser, and ECS Law Clerk John Jones.**

On December 11 and December 16, 2019, three defendants pleaded guilty for trafficking in protected birds. Paul Tallman pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act. Rene Rizal and William McGinness pleaded guilty to knowingly making a false record in violation of the Lacey Act. McGinness also pleaded guilty to conspiracy (18 U.S.C. § 371; 16 U.S.C. §§ 3372(d)(2), 3373(d)(3)(A)).

Tallman, owner of Aerotyme, Inc., helped McGinness ship birds from California to the Port of New Orleans for export to Taiwan. They sought to avoid a 2015 Taiwanese ban on the import of all California birds due to the risk of highly pathogenic avian flu. The shipment contained 86 birds, including three falsely labeled macaws.

McGinness directed Tallman and Rizal to create and certify false paperwork facilitating the shipment from New Orleans. McGinness trucked the birds from California to Aerotyme in Kenner, Louisiana. Tallman and McGinness submitted the falsified paperwork to officials (including a veterinary health certificate) certifying that the birds were disease free.

A court sentenced Wayne Andrews and Alex Madriaga on January 15, 2020, to complete two-year terms of probation. Andrews will pay a \$3,000 fine and Madriaga will pay a \$7,000 fine. Andrews, a bird breeder, and Madriaga, a veterinarian, pleaded guilty to creating false documents to facilitate McGinness' plan to transport the birds from California to Louisiana. Rizal, McGinness, and Tallman are scheduled for sentencing on March 4, 2020.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement conducted the investigation.



Rescued bird

Guilty Pleas

United States v. Christopher L. Gordon, No. 4:19-CR-00009 (D. Alaska), AUSA Ryan Tansey.

On December 9, 2019, Christopher L. Gordon pleaded guilty to violating the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) for shooting and killing a polar bear and wasting the harvestable remains (16 U.S.C. §§ 1372(a)(2)(A), 1371(b)(3), 1375(b)). Sentencing is scheduled for February 28, 2020.

In December 2018, Gordon attracted a polar bear to his front yard after leaving butchered whale meat out in the open for a substantial period of time. Gordon shot and killed the bear in his yard, leaving its carcass covered with snow for five months without salvaging any of the meat.

Subsequently, a snow plow arrived in May 2019, inadvertently ripping off one of the bear's legs. Gordon caused the polar bear carcass to be discarded and burned in the Kaktovik dump without using any of its parts for subsistence purposes. The MMPA permits coastal dwelling Alaskan natives to take marine mammals for subsistence purposes, as long as it is not done in a wasteful manner.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted the investigation.



Polar Bear carcass

United States v. Troy Fairbanks, et al., No. 5:17-CR-50036 (D.S.D.), AUSAs Eric Kelderman and Meghan Dilges.

On December 6, 2019, Troy Fairbanks, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. § 371). Sentencing is scheduled for May 4, 2020.

Between July 2014, and February 2016, Fairbanks conspired with his sons (Majestic and Troy) and others, to traffic in wildlife (specifically, bald and golden eagles, various species of hawks, and other bird species). Fairbanks, the owner/operator of Buffalo Dreamers, a Native American dance business, bought, sold, traded, and bartered eagles and hawks and their parts on numerous occasions. He sold and traded hundreds of eagle feathers, as well as eagle wings, eagle heads, eagle claws, raptor claws, and hawk feathers. His sons pleaded guilty to violating the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. § 668(d)). Majestic is scheduled for sentencing on February 21, 2020, and Troy is set for February 24, 2020.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted the investigation.

Sentencings

***United States v. Chad Ponce*, No. 3:19-CR-00082 (M.D. Fla.), AUSA Jay Taylor.**

On December 19, 2019, a court sentenced Chad Ponce to pay a \$2,000 fine, complete a two-year term of probation, and perform 80 hours of community service. Ponce previously pleaded guilty to violating the Endangered Species Act for killing a sawfish (16 U.S.C. §§ 1538, 1540).

In July 2018, an individual alerted a local sheriff's office that someone aboard the shrimping trawler *Triton II* cut the rostrum from a live sawfish while off the coast of Ponte Vedra, Florida. Local wildlife officers contacted Ponce, the owner and captain of the vessel. After conducting a search, Ponce admitted to inadvertently catching a sawfish in his nets, but claimed he released the fish unharmed into the water. The search did not produce a sawfish, but officers observed several power saws on board.

Officials with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration located several eyewitnesses, including one who used a cellphone to videotape the capture and decking of the sawfish. Measuring 12 to 14 feet long, the fish was trapped in the vessel's netting and hauled onto the *Triton II* deck. The captain of the filming boat asked Ponce if the fish was a sawfish, to which Ponce replied yes. Eyewitnesses observed Ponce retrieving a saw and using it to remove the rostrum from the live fish. Ponce then tossed the fish overboard.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Florida Wildlife Commission conducted the investigation.

***United States v. Jaron Coleman*, No. 7:19-CR-00043 (M.D. Ga.), AUSA Robert McCullers.**

On December 17, 2019, a court sentenced Jaron Coleman to 18 months' incarceration, followed by one year of supervised release. Coleman also will pay a \$5,000 fine. He previously pleaded guilty to violating the Oil Pollution Act and the Clean Water Act for dumping thousands of gallons of diesel fuel and causing the shutdown of a nearby school (33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(c)(2)(A), 1321(b)(3)).

On April 19, 2018, Coleman, working for Eco Energy, dumped approximately 3,000 gallons of fuel on the ground near a gas station in Thomasville, Georgia, after he realized he had loaded the wrong product for delivery. The fuel migrated to an adjacent storm water drainage system that flows directly into a creek. The unnamed creek is a tributary of Good Water Creek that flows into Oquina Creek and the Ochlockonee River, a traditionally navigable water of the United States. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency initiated a cleanup. Officials evacuated the Garrison Pilcher Elementary School after discovering large amounts of diesel fuel nearby.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigation Division conducted the investigation.

Sentencings

***United States v. William Juel*, No. 7:19-CR-00105 (E.D.N.C.), AUSA Banu Rangarajan.**

On December 17, 2019, a court sentenced William Juel to 12 months' incarceration as a special condition of a five-year term of probation. Juel also will pay a \$1,200 fine, after previously pleading guilty to obstructing a U.S. Coast Guard investigation at sea (18 U.S.C. § 2232).

Juel captained the commercial fishing vessel *Island Runner*. On November 30, 2017, while on routine patrol, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Cormorant* approached the *Island Runner* in federal waters to conduct a boarding. As the *Cormorant* approached, Coast Guard personnel observed and videotaped Juel and his mate throwing fish overboard. Further investigation revealed that Juel discarded illegally harvested fish to prevent the Coast Guard from seizing the catch. The gutted fish included Snowy Grouper as well as Yellow Edge Grouper, Wreckfish, and Amberjack. Approximately five months prior to the boarding, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries imposed a commercial closure on the harvest of Snowy Grouper because the quota had been reached for the year. Juel knew about the closure at the time of the offense.

The U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Law Enforcement conducted the investigation.

***United States v. Michael P. Ellard*, No. 2:19-CR-00028 (M.D. Fla.), AUSA Jeffrey F. Michelland.**

On December 16, 2019, a court sentenced Michael P. Ellard to 15 months' incarceration, followed by three years' supervised release. Ellard previously pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act for illegally capturing Wood Turtles and transporting them across state lines (16 U.S.C. §§3372(a)(2)(A), 3373(d)(1)(B)). A restitution hearing is scheduled for March 2, 2020.

Ellard bought and sold reptiles throughout the United States. Between March and May 2016, Ellard travelled to West Virginia and illegally captured approximately 140 Wood Turtles to take back to sell in Florida. While executing a search warrant at Ellard's residence in 2016, agents seized 17 Wood Turtles.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted the investigation.



Wood Turtle

Sentencings

***United States v. Nicholas Skaroulis*, No. 8:19-CR-00422 (M.D. Fla.), AUSA Jay Hoffer.**

On December 16, a court sentenced Nicholas Skaroulis to complete a six-month term of probation, to include three months' home detention. Skaroulis will pay a \$7,500 fine and \$14,935 in restitution to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. He previously pleaded guilty to violating the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1538(e), (f)(1), 1540 (b)(1)).

Skaroulis owned and operated Sponges Direct, Inc. (SDI). The company sold non-living natural sponges to customers across the country and overseas. Between 2014 and 2018, SDI failed to declare these wildlife shipments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on packages sold outside of the United States. The company also failed to obtain an import/export license, and evaded paying inspection and user fees.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted the investigation.

***United States v. Raymond Williams*, Nos. 4:19-CR-00002 (W.D. Ky.) AUSAs Randy Ream and Madison Sewell.**

On December 11, 2019, a court sentenced Raymond Williams to ten months' incarceration to run concurrent with a five-year sentence he is currently serving in Georgia for bribery. He will pay a \$4,000 fine and complete a three-year term of supervised release.

Williams acted as the president, owner, and CEO of U.S. Technology Corporation, headquartered in Ohio. The company leased blasting material used to remove paints and other substances. Military bases and agencies often require the use of abrasives to strip paint from tanks, planes, and other equipment. The paint contains heavy metals such as cadmium, chromium, and lead, which get mixed in with the spent blasting material (SBM) returned to the company. Williams leased multiple warehouses in a few states to store SBM.

In July 2016, Williams leased a warehouse in Madisonville, Kentucky, to store SBM he held in warehouses in Georgia and Arkansas, without a permit. For a similar scheme in Missouri, a court sentenced Williams to complete a five-year term of probation and held him jointly and severally liable for \$1.5 million in restitution to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for cleanup costs. Williams bribed a Department of Defense official at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia to steer business toward Williams' companies. He was further ordered to pay restitution of \$870,000 to the U.S. Department of Defense in that matter.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigation Division, the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and Department of Defense/Defense Criminal Investigative Service conducted the investigations.

Sentencings

(Continued from page 16)

not found any illness linked to those who consumed the fish.

In 2008, officials seized nearly \$100,000 worth of Canadian salmon sold by Seven Seas that had been illegally caught with gill netting. Just one year later, in 2009, authorities fined Seven Seas \$50,000 for selling salmon unfit for human consumption. The fish was sold for mink feed, but without the required notice to the agency that issued the detainer.

The FDA Office of Criminal Investigation, Customs and Border Protection, and Homeland Security Investigations conducted the investigation.

United States v. Lawrence Rutledge, No. 3:18-CR-30073 (S.D. Ill.), AUSA Liam Coonan.

On December 3, 2019, a court sentenced Lawrence Rutledge to complete a five-year term of probation and pay \$335,935 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for cleanup costs. Rutledge previously pleaded guilty to violating the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act for storing and abandoning hazardous waste without a permit (42 U.S.C. § 6928(d)(2)(A)).

Since approximately 1997, Rutledge d/b/a/ Advanced Asymmetries, Inc., synthesized specialty chemicals for the pharmaceutical industry. He located his facility in a residential area, near a nursing home.

Beginning in approximately 2011, Rutledge stopped paying the taxes on the building, and by 2013, the county cut off both water and sewer service to his facility. When state and federal environmental officials inspected the building in August 2015, they found hundreds of containers (many of them rusted) labelled as containing chemicals and wastes. Broken containers spilled unknown substances, and water leaked from the roof. Some of the containers appeared to contain acids, caustics, and other hazardous wastes. Samples taken in September 2015 confirmed the presence of both listed and characteristic hazardous wastes.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigation Division and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency conducted the investigation.

United States v. Arthur Wolfe, No. 6:18-CR-10136 (D. Kansas), AUSA Alan Metzger.

On December 2, 2019, a court sentenced Arthur Wolfe to pay a \$1,000 fine for falsifying official certificates relating to drinking water quality reports (18 U.S.C. § 1018).

The city of Garden Plain, Kansas, operates a “community water system” that provides drinking water for close to 1,000 residents. Acting as the Water System Agent for the City, Wolfe falsified bacteriological summary reports for a number of months in 2017. Wolfe certified that he took samples from the required sampling areas, when in fact he took them from the water treatment plant.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigation Division conducted the investigation.



Ceiling falling over abandoned lab area

Announcements

When submitting a press release for posting with the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys <https://www.justice.gov/usao/pressreleases>, please be sure it is tagged for the “Environment/Wildlife” topic. This will help ensure that your case is not overlooked for reporting in the Bulletin.

News from state, local, and Canadian cases is posted on the Regional Environmental Enforcement Associations [website](#) .

Please send [REDACTED] any pleadings you believe would be useful for posting in the [Brief Bank](#).

If you are in need of sentencing data for your wildlife or pollution cases, please contact [REDACTED] with your search requests.

Please notify ECS of any appeals taken in your cases, as per [Section 5-11.118](#) of the U.S. Attorneys’ Manual.

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