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**FORMER OWNER AND OPERATOR OF OIL WELL
PLEADS GUILTY TO DISCHARGING OIL INTO DEVIL'S CREEK**

Alexandria, La.: United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced that Kent Phillips, 61, of Oklahoma City Okla., pled guilty today to negligently discharging oil into Devil's Creek in violation of the Clean Water Act.

Kent Phillips was a corporate officer and owner of Kepco Operating, Inc. Kepco was an oil production company operating and leasing oil field sites near Jena, La., including the Hailey #2 well site.

Phillips pled guilty to a one-count Bill of Information which charged that in December of 2007, Phillips negligently discharged oil into Devil's Creek without a permit. The Clean Water Act (CWA) makes it a misdemeanor to negligently violate section 1321(b)(3) of the CWA. Phillips faces a penalty of not more than one year imprisonment and a fine of not more than \$ 25,000 per day of the violation. Sentencing has been set for October 10, 2010.

The case is being investigated by Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Earl M. Campbell.

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