

For Immediate Release  
August 16, 2011

**LOVING, NEW MEXICO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO**  
**FEDERAL FIREARMS CHARGE**

LAS CRUCES – United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that, earlier today, **Brian J. Laxson**, 32, of Loving, New Mexico, pled guilty to an information charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm. At sentencing, Laxson faces up to ten years of imprisonment, three years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine. Laxson, who was released on a \$20,000 secured bond on June 7, 2011, remains out of custody pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

Laxson was charged in a criminal complaint that was filed April 14, 2011. The complaint alleged that Laxson was prohibited from possessing firearms because he previously had been convicted of tampering with evidence in the Fifth Judicial District Court in Eddy County, New Mexico.

According to the criminal complaint, on February 19, 2011, Eddy County Sheriff's Office deputies received a call from the security officer at Intrepid Potash plant near Carlsbad, New Mexico, about a suspicious vehicle on their property. Deputies went to the area and stopped a vehicle driven by Laxson. The deputies found a .22 caliber rifle on the roadway and, when they asked Laxson if the rifle belonged to him, he admitted throwing the rifle from his vehicle when he saw the deputies approaching.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Eddy County Sheriff's Office, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney W. Ronald Jennings.

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