



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For Immediate Release

April 30, 2009

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DEQ-CID Arrests New Orleans Area Demolition contractor

BATON ROUGE – Today, the Criminal Investigation Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ-CID) arrested a Gretna contractor on eleven (11) felony counts of submitting documents containing false certifications to the department. “The safe and effective rebuilding of New Orleans is crucial to our state, and DEQ is committed to ensuring these efforts are done in accordance with all laws and regulations,” said Beau James Brock, Assistant to the Secretary.

Charlie Hampton, 55, is alleged to have submitted documents to DEQ that contained false inspection certifications on Asbestos Notification of Demolitions and Renovation Forms (AAC-2) for work in the New Orleans area. According to the information gathered throughout the investigation, these inspections, required by law, did not occur. “DEQ-CID takes a strong stance against businesses and individuals who submit false documents to the department,” said DEQ-CID Manager, Jeffrey Nolan.

DEQ requires contractors to submit AAC-2 forms to the department prior to the demolition or renovation of any commercial building such as a multi-family residential structure. This also includes any structure to be demolished under a commercial contract. This requirement is set forth in order to assure the public that asbestos containing materials are properly handled, and the public safety is assured.

Filing false public records containing a false representation of material fact is a felony under Title 14 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes. A conviction of the crime of filing false public records can result in imprisonment for not more than five years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$5 thousand, or both.

An arrest does not constitute guilt in a criminal case. All evidence compiled during the investigation is presented to the area prosecutors who determine if formal charges are warranted.

-30-

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