



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Lake Charles Man pleads guilty to illegal dumping in Jefferson Davis Parish

BATON ROUGE – On Monday, a Lake Charles man pled guilty to the illegal disposal of solid waste in Jefferson Davis Parish.

Matthew King, 51, of Lake Charles, was ordered to pay \$2,000 dollars in criminal fines plus court costs, stemming from charges of illegally disposing solid waste on his property. King was also sentenced to 24 months of supervised probation. He must also pay \$1,000 to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for the cost of investigation and \$500 to the Jefferson Davis Parish District Attorney's office for prosecution costs.

In June 2007, a DEQ inspector observed King's Elite Demolition, owned by King, demolishing a former video store in Welsh. The inspector spoke with King and instructed him to dispose of the waste material at the Jefferson Davis landfill. In September 2007, DEQ investigated a complaint and discovered that the waste material from the former video store had been placed in a newly excavated hole on property owned by the King family. King subsequently admitted to the DEQ investigator that he had hauled the waste to his property.

The matter was then investigated by DEQ's Criminal Investigation Division, and King was arrested in August 2008.

"Regrettably, some people have little respect for environment and would rather dump debris illegally than dispose of it properly," said Jeffrey Nolan, DEQ-CID Manager. "We remain determined in our mission to aggressively pursue businesses and people who pollute our state and environment for profit."

In August 2010, an inspection of the King family property found no waste at the site.

This case was prosecuted in the 31st Judicial District Court at the direction of Jefferson Davis Parish District Attorney Michael Cassidy and Assistant District Attorney Stacey Naquin.