



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ-CID arrests LaSalle Parish man for alleged illegal dumping of cooking oil and grease

BATON ROUGE – Today, investigators within the Criminal Investigation Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality arrested a LaSalle Parish man for the alleged illegal dumping of restaurant grease and used cooking oil into state waterways.

Karl W. Doughty, 57, of Olla, is alleged to have intentionally dumped grease and cooking oil from his restaurant into state waterways. Doughty is the owner of Rhinehart Roadhouse Restaurant.

Investigators with DEQ's Criminal Investigations Division observed a trench containing grease and cooking oil flowing from an open pit at the restaurant into a roadside ditch. Doughty's arrest was executed in connection with an arrest warrant issued on Tuesday by the Honorable J. Christopher Peters, 28th Judicial District Court Judge.

"The tragedy that has unfolded in the Gulf of Mexico over the past several months should remind everyone that our waterways are precious natural resources. DEQ-CID will continue to aggressively pursue anyone engaged in the unpermitted and illegal discharge of pollutants into state waterbodies," said Jeffrey T. Nolan, Manager of DEQ's Criminal Investigation Division.

The violation cited in Doughty's arrest warrant is a felony. If convicted of the crime of knowingly discharging pollutants to waters of the state, Doughty faces possible imprisonment for not more than three years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$50,000, or both.

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is to protect the environment and public health. Any persons with knowledge of any spills, releases, odors, fish kills, open burning, waste tires and any other types of environmental incidents may contact the department at 225-219-3640 or Toll Free 1-888-763-5424.

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