



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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Environmental Update

Two indicted for crimes to the environment

BATON ROUGE -- Two brothers who own AA Vacuum Truck Service in Marrero were indicted today for crimes to the environment. Warren and Kevin Breaux were charged with criminal violation of the state's pollutant discharge elimination system, criminal damage to property and conspiracy to commit those crimes.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's Criminal Investigations unit was part of a team that discovered the brothers operated a septic and grease collection/disposal service in a manner that was detrimental to the environment. The operation collects waste from various restaurants and businesses in Jefferson and surrounding parishes.

"Instead of treating the grease and disposing of it properly, this company would empty their trucks into the parish sewer systems," said Peter Ricca, DEQ's Environmental Manager for Criminal Investigations. "This is a problem in several areas throughout the state. Sewer systems cannot handle the grease because it gets in there, hardens and clogs the system."

The charges are misdemeanors, but Ricca said that does not make the crime any less severe.

"The owners of the company face possible fines between \$5 thousand and \$50 thousand and up to three years in jail," Ricca said.

Ricca said his unit found out about the crimes when an employee with Kenner Public Works noticed the large amounts of grease in the system and contacted DEQ. According to Ricca, the attorney general's office, the Jefferson Parish district attorney and sheriff's office, Kenner's city prosecutor and the public works departments for both Kenner and Jefferson Parish played a part in the investigation.