



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For Immediate Release

May 8, 2007

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DEQ hands out \$24,000 penalty for illegal dumping

BATON ROUGE – A penalty of nearly \$24,000 was assessed to Shamrock Demolition Waste Haulers of Louisiana for illegally disposing of solid waste. The Department of Environmental Quality investigated a citizen's complaint concerning illegally dumped waste at a site on Grant Street in eastern New Orleans and discovered Shamrock in violation of solid waste rules.

The site, along with more than 150 others along the Almonaster Corridor, was also documented during a two-part investigation into solid waste and other environmental issues in the area which has historically been home to several illegal dump sites.

“We have penalties going out to many other site operators, land owners and debris haulers as part of an on-going statewide solid waste initiative,” said DEQ Assistant Secretary Harold Leggett. “The department's focus has been on the New Orleans East area because of the historical abuse of this area and increased dumping following Katrina. With the help of the Public Service Commission, the New Orleans Police Department, Louisiana National Guard, EPA and other state and federal agencies, we want to make sure people think twice before illegally accepting, dumping or hauling solid waste.”

Leggett went on to say that the state's penalty is only part of the deterrent.

“When the city seizes someone's vehicle or when the federal government pulls a contract, that builds upon what we are trying to do,” he said. “Those people who participate in illegal activity took extra notice when the Public Service Commission and the National Guard participated in the April sting operations. This penalty against Shamrock is important and there could be more to come as state, federal and local agencies work together to curb illegal dumping statewide.”

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