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Orleans Parish Disposal Contractor arrested for illegal dumping in New Orleans East

BATON ROUGE – Today, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality’s Criminal Investigation Section arrested an Orleans Parish man on multiple counts of violating environmental laws as well as criminal trespassing. Jamie L. Jones, 38, of 1689 Elizardi Blvd., New Orleans, was charged with one felony count of dumping solid waste into waters of the state, two misdemeanor counts of illegally disposing of solid waste, and 12 misdemeanor counts of criminal trespassing. Jones is the owner and operator of Jamie’s Disposal LLC.

In March 2019, LDEQ CIS received complaints about illegal dumping occurring near 53790 Grant St. in New Orleans East. In April 2019, LDEQ CIS investigators, with assistance from the Louisiana State Police, performed aerial surveillance of the dumpsite. Investigation revealed that Jones was dumping construction and demolition debris on the ground and in wetland areas on several properties adjacent to 53790 Grant St. Observations made by investigators during the aerial surveillance were photographed and videoed.



The dumpsite.

Further investigation by LDEQ CIS consisted of visiting the properties and confirming the observations made through aerial surveillance. In addition, LDEQ CIS investigators learned that Jones did not have permission from the landowners of adjacent properties to conduct disposal activities or to be present on these properties.

“We are not going to tolerate blatant disregard of Louisiana’s laws and environment,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said. “We will catch you if you engage in this type of criminal activity, and you can count on us pursuing charges and sending you to jail.”

Brown pointed to Louisiana State Police’s role in the arrest as an example of interagency cooperation to protect the state’s environment. “We appreciate the personnel and equipment they provided to assist our surveillance operation,” he said.

If convicted of illegally dumping solid waste into waters of the state, Jones could be fined not less than \$5,000 and up to \$50,000 and would be subject to serve up to 3 years in prison, or both. If convicted of illegally disposing of solid waste, for each count, Jones could be fined up to \$25,000 and be subject to serve up to a year in prison, or both. Finally, if convicted of criminal trespassing, for each count, Jones could be fined not less than \$100 and up to \$500 and be subject to serve up to 30 days in prison or both, according to LDEQ.

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. All evidence compiled during the investigation is presented to area prosecutors who determine if formal charges are warranted.