



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Jim Letten

Eastern District of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/LAE

CONTACT: ANNA CHRISTMAN
PHONE: (504) 680-3171
FAX: (504) 589-4978

HOUMA COMPANY PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT TO FELONY VIOLATION OF CLEAN WATER ACT

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA -CTCO SHIPYARD OF LOUISIANA, LLC, 141 Bayou Dularge Road, Houma, Louisiana, pled guilty yesterday to an environmental crime for violating the terms of its permit for over a year and a half, announced U. S. Attorney Jim Letten.

CTCO SHIPYARD OF LOUISIANA, LLC pled guilty before U. S. District Court Judge Carl Barbier to a one count felony Bill of Information charging it with violating the Clean Water Act. The maximum penalty **CTCO** faces is a fine of up to \$500,000 and a term of probation up to five (5) years. Sentencing has been scheduled for June 28, 2012.

The government filed a Bill of Information on March 22, 2012 charging **CTCO SHIPYARD OF LOUISIANA, LLC**, with a violation of the Clean Water Act by knowing that its permit required it to regularly collect discharge samples, test those samples for pollutants that were covered by its permit and submit Discharge Monitoring Reports to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, and that it failed to do so. **CTCO** admitted today that it possessed a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit and that the permit imposed limitations on the amount of pollutants that could be discharged from its facility into waters of the United States. These limitations were called discharge of effluent limitations. **CTCO** was required to monitor its discharges to determine whether it was in compliance with the pollutant discharge limitations set forth in its permit. **CTCO** was required to report to LDEQ the laboratory tests of the discharge samples on a report known as a Discharge Monitoring Report, commonly known as a "DMR". However, from June, 2008 to January, 2010, **CTCO** admitted that it did not collect any discharge samples or test any samples for pollutants that were covered by its permit, nor did it submit any DMRs to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

Speaking on today's guilty plea, Peggy Hatch, Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality stated:

"The water discharge permit system, as well as many other programs regulated by DEQ, is based on truthfulness in self-reporting. When a company fails to honestly and accurately report discharges, the integrity of the entire program is compromised. DEQ continues to investigate reports of illegal discharges and dumping activity as we work side by side with our federal partners to protect human health and the environment."

Ivan Vikin, Special Agent in Charge of EPA's Criminal Enforcement Program in Louisiana, added:

"The company tried to hide its illegal discharges of raw sewage into the Intracoastal Waterway Canal by failing to provide the state with required information about the pollution it caused. Today's plea sends a clear message to other potential violators that companies that fail to dispose of their wastes legally and in an environmentally sound manner, will be held responsible for their crimes."

This case was investigated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency- Criminal Investigative Division and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality-Criminal Investigative Division, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dorothy Manning Taylor.

* * *