



**For Immediate Release:**  
June 12, 2019

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### **Lake Charles man charged with illegal discharge of untreated sewage wastes**

**BATON ROUGE** – Investigators within the Criminal Investigations Section of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff’s Office arrested a Lake Charles man on two counts of knowingly discharging untreated sewage waste near Sulphur Wednesday, June 12. Under Louisiana law, knowingly discharging a pollutant to waters of the state without the appropriate LDEQ permit and without any prior treatment is a felony.

Robert James Rollerson, 31, a former vacuum truck driver and employee of National Toilet Rentals, illegally discharged portable toilet waste into a ditch along Arenos Road and La. 108 southeast of Sulphur. The discharges occurred on at least two occasions in January 2019.

During the investigation, LDEQ CIS investigators interviewed eyewitnesses who saw Rollerson discharging sewage wastes from a National Toilet Rentals vacuum truck on Jan. 9, 2019, and Jan. 18, 2019. Photographs taken by the eyewitnesses at the time of the incidents revealed toilet paper, sewage artifacts and a blue colored liquid in the ditch along Arenos Road. The existence of such substances in the ditch is consistent with the discharge of portable toilet waste.

After extensive investigation and interviews with several eyewitnesses, LDEQ CIS obtained a felony arrest warrant for Rollerson on June 10, 2019. LDEQ CIS personnel, along with Calcasieu Sheriff’s deputies, arrested Rollerson today.

Rollerson resigned from National Toilet Rentals shortly after the investigation began, and National Toilet Rentals officials cooperated fully with LDEQ CIS personnel throughout their investigation.

“This action was both illegal and dangerous,” said LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown. “If you willfully and purposefully violate the rules and regulations, the consequences are dire.”

If convicted of knowingly discharging a pollutant to waters of the state without the appropriate permit and without the appropriate treatment, Rollerson could be fined up to \$50,000 for each violation and would be subject to serve up to three years 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 the area prosecutors who determine if formal charges are warranted.*