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Walter Wright, Jr. wwright@mwlaw.com (501) 688.8839 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training: Environmental Crimes Case Bulletin/December 2019 – January 2020

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The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training publishes an environmental Case Crimes Bulletin ("Bulletin") that summarizes publicized investigative activity and adjudicated cases supported by EPA Criminal Investigation Division special agents, forensic specialists, and legal support staff.

A copy of the December 2019 – January 2020 edition has been published.

The December – January Bulletin lists the follow matters:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Defendants</u>	<u>Case Type/Status</u>
1	Sea Harvest Inc., Fishing Vessel Enterprises Inc.	Plea Agreement/Pled guilty for allegedly violating Clean Water Act. Sentenced to pay \$1 million criminal fine and serve five-year term of probation.
2	James S. Marshall	Indictment/Violation of Clean Air Act for alleged negligent endangerment under Clean Air Act, making false statement. Maximum penalty of five years in prison and \$250,000 fine.
3	Mohammad Sikder	Sentencing/Sentenced to 60 days' incarceration, two years supervised release, \$50,000 fine and 300 hours of community service for alleged violation of Toxic Substances Control Act
4	John H. Couey	Sentencing/Sentenced to 18 months incarceration on each of five felony counts of allegedly knowingly making false material statements in documents required under the

		Clean Water Act
5	Lawrence D. Rutledge	Sentencing/Sentenced to five years of federal probation and ordered to pay restitution of \$335,934.87 to EPA for clean-up expenses associated with alleged illegal storage of hazardous waste
5	Andrew K. Ecklund	Indictment/Charged in nine-count indictment for allegedly falsifying test results sent to customers across the country
7	Arthur Wolfe	Sentencing/Sentenced to a year of federal probation and ordered to pay \$1,000 fine for allegedly falsifying a report on the quality of Garden Plain, Kansas drinking water
7	Harcos Chemicals	Plea Agreement/Pled guilty to alleged violation of federal clean air law in connection with toxic chlorine gas cloud formed over Atchison, Kansas in 2016
9	CG Roxanne, LLC (Crystal Geyser)	Plea Agreement/Pled guilty to federal charges of allegedly illegally storing and transporting hazardous waste created from filtering arsenic out of spring water at its facility in Olancha, California
10	Hector Garza, Jr., Tammy Garza, HTG Trucking LLC, Freedom Fuel Inc.	Sentencing/Hector Garza, Jr., sentenced to two years in prison to be followed by three-year term of supervised release; Tammy Garza sentenced to four months in prison and one year of supervised release; HTG Trucking LLC and Freedom Fuel, Inc. placed on probation for three years. All ordered to pay restitution of \$284,546 and a \$100,000 fine for alleged fraud and false statement charges in connection with renewable energy fraud scheme.
10	Seattle Barrel and Cooperage Co., Louie Sanft	Indictment/36-count indictment for an alleged ten-year scheme to illegally dump caustic waste into the King County sewer system, which empties into Puget Sound

A copy of the Bulletin can be found <u>here</u>.