



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For Immediate Release
May 3, 2012

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Acadia Parish waste tire transporter arrested for felony waste tire fund violations

BATON ROUGE – Today, investigators within the Criminal Investigation Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality arrested a waste tire transporter from Church Point on numerous felony counts related to the Louisiana Waste Tire Management Fund.

Majella Green, 57, a waste tire transporter employed by Reds Transport, is being charged with 58 counts of forgery; 58 counts of filing a false public record; one count of theft of approximately \$7,715.50; and one count of Waste Tire Fund fraud greater than \$500. Green allegedly inflated the number of eligible tires and/or forged the names of legitimate tire generators on manifests so that he could be reimbursed by Colt Tire, a waste tire processor.

A fee on the sale of a tire is collected by the retail tire dealership and remitted to DEQ to be deposited into the Louisiana Waste Tire Management Fund. The Generator's Waste Tire Manifest was developed to ensure the proper transportation and processing of all waste tires generated within the state. The Waste Tire Management Fund is established by law and is used to compensate processors and transporters for the efficient reuse of these products from registered sites, transported by registered drivers. Upon waste tire pick up, waste tire transporters are required to prepare a manifest indicating where the tires originated, the number of eligible tires collected, and the number of ineligible tires collected. The manifest is then signed by the generator and transporter.

“This conduct represents a direct attack on the Louisiana Waste Tire Program. Waste tire transporters who choose to break the law will be investigated and prosecuted,” said Vince Sagnibene, DEQ Undersecretary of Management & Finance.

If convicted of the crime of forgery, Green faces possible imprisonment for not more than 10 years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both. If convicted of the crime of filing false public records, Green faces possible imprisonment for not more than five years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both. If convicted of the crime of theft, Green faces possible imprisonment for not more than 10 years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$3,000, or both. If convicted of the crime of Waste Tire Fund Fraud and the fraudulent taking amounts to a value of five hundred dollars or more, Green faces imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than ten years, or may be fined not more than three thousand dollars, or both.

Green was arrested by DEQ CID investigators in February 2011 for nearly identical charges. On March 8, 2012, Green pled guilty to one count of forgery; whereupon he received a suspended sentence of five years hard labor, plus five years of supervised probation.

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 and all subjects are presumed innocent. All evidence compiled during the investigation is presented to the area prosecutors who determine if formal charges are warranted.