



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For Immediate Release
December 5, 2012

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St. Landry Parish man pleads guilty to environmental crimes, gets jail time

BATON ROUGE –Monday, Joseph L. Jones, 58, of St. Landry Parish, pled guilty to 11 felony charges involving criminal violations of Plaisance Development Corporation’s water discharge permits in St. Landry Parish. Jones was the president of Plaisance Development Corporation which operated six wastewater treatment plants in St. Landry Parish as well as six wastewater treatment plants in Evangeline Parish. Jones was charged with knowingly violating the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit by exceeding discharge limitations and not providing monitoring results for the facilities operated in St. Landry Parish.

Jones was sentenced to 18 months in jail to run concurrently with a previous sentence he received on multiple violations in Evangeline Parish, restitution of \$5115.00 to be paid to DEQ and five years supervised probation upon his release from jail. Jones is prohibited from working with wastewater treatment operations again. Jones was arrested on July 22, 2010, on these charges.

Plaisance Development Corporation pled guilty to 18 felony charges and was fined \$90,000.

”The integrity of the waters of the state and the health of our citizens and environment are part of DEQ’s mission and responsibility,” said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. “Every Louisiana citizen should take personal pride in maintaining and preserving our unique natural environment for today as well as for future generations.

The case was investigated by Ryan Brignac of DEQ’s Criminal Investigation Division and prosecuted by St. Landry District Attorney Earl Taylor and Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Ardoin.

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.