



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Lafayette Parish woman arrested for illegal disposal of septic tank wastes**

**BATON ROUGE** – Today, deputies with the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office warrant squad arrested a Lafayette woman for the alleged illegal storage and disposal of grease and septic tank wastes. The arrest was pursuant to an arrest warrant obtained by investigators with the Criminal Investigation Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

Deidre Lavan, 49, of Lafayette is alleged to have used her tank truck equipment to transport grease and septic tank wastes from area residences and businesses and illegally store and dispose of these materials on her property located at 535 Tolson Road, Lafayette, Louisiana. Lavan owns and operates Lavan Tank Service. DEQ-CID agents executed a search warrant at Lavan's residence on December 14, 2011, and discovered nine storage tanks containing over 70,000 gallons of grease and septic tank waste on Lavan's property. Lavan does not have a permit to store or dispose of waste on her property.

"The safe and proper handling and disposal of wastes that are potentially harmful to human health and the environment is always a priority for DEQ" said Peggy Hatch, DEQ Secretary. "Anyone who has knowledge of any activity involving illegal dumping or disposal of materials is asked to contact DEQ. Notifications can be anonymous. We welcome any assistance from the public as we continue to work diligently with our local, state and federal partners to bring these violators to justice."

Lavan was convicted in 2006 for similar crimes in Evangeline Parish. As a condition of her probation, Lavan agreed to a lifetime ban from the septic tank waste hauling or disposal business.

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.*