



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

PEGGY M. HATCH  
SECRETARY

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**Contact:** Jean Kelly  
Telephone: 225-219-3966

### **Grant Parish man arrested for illegal disposal of septic tank wastes**

**BATON ROUGE** – Today, investigators with DEQ’s Criminal Investigation Division, deputies from the Grant Parish Sheriff’s Office, and troopers from State Police Troop E arrested a Pollock man for the illegal disposal of septic tank wastes and sewage. The arrest took place in conjunction with a search warrant executed at the man’s residence.

Whirley Austin Walker, 61, of 214 Walker Road in Pollock, is alleged to have used his tank truck equipment to transport septic tank wastes and sewage and illegally dispose of these materials on vacant property he owns on Highway 8, across from 4-H Camp Grant Walker.

“Septic tank wastes may contain bacteria, viruses, and other blood borne pathogens that are potentially harmful,” said Jeff Nolan, manager of DEQ’s Criminal Investigation Division. “Protecting human health and the environment are our priorities at DEQ. We owe it to the legitimate waste haulers, who are operating within the law, to investigate and seek prosecution of those who cut corners.”

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.*