



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ re-arrests man for submission of false documentation

BATON ROUGE – A Natchitoches man was re-arrested today by DEQ Criminal Investigation Division investigators for allegedly misrepresenting himself as a Professional Engineer on public documents submitted to DEQ. DEQ-CID was assisted by the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division.

Nathan Redwine, 61, is alleged to have falsely represented himself as a Professional Engineer when Hazardous Waste drip pad inspection certifications were submitted to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. These certifications were sealed with a signature certifying Redwine as a Professional Engineer. According to the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board, Redwine is not a Professional Engineer. The seal contained a registration number belonging to a professional engineer residing in Texas.

Under the Hazardous Waste regulations, owners or operators of wood treating facilities that use new or existing drip pads, must conduct annual assessments and submit the results of these assessments to DEQ. These assessments must be reviewed and certified by a professional engineer.

An investigation by DEQ-CID and EPA CID investigators shows that Redwine allegedly signed three drip pad assessments with a false professional engineer certification.

“Submitting false public documents is a serious offense,” said Jeffrey Nolan, Director of DEQ’s Criminal Investigation Division. “The professional engineer certification is a major requirement of these drip pad assessments which are intended to protect the health and safety of the citizens of Louisiana.”

As a result of a prior investigation by DEQ-CID, Redwine has been charged with three counts of Filing False Public Records by the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney’s Office and is awaiting trial.

Filing false public records containing a forgery, wrongful document alteration or false statement or false representation of material fact, is illegal under the Louisiana Revised Statute. A conviction in the crime of filing false public records can result in imprisonment for not more than five years with or without hard labor, or a fine of not more than \$5 thousand, or both.

An arrest does not constitute guilt in a criminal case. All evidence compiled during the investigation is presented to area prosecutors to determine if formal charges are warranted.

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