

# News Release

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Release:

**U.S. Department  
of Justice**

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Thomas J. Stricker, age 50, of Willoughby Hills, Ohio, Gregory T. Stricker, age 51, of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and Stricker Refinishing Company, Inc., of Cleveland, Ohio, were sentenced in United States District Court, Steven M. Dettelbach, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, announced today.

Thomas J. Stricker and Gregory T. Stricker were each sentenced to three years of probation. In addition, both were fined \$30,000 and ordered to make a community service payment in the amount of \$25,000 to Ducks Unlimited.

During their term of probation, Thomas J. Stricker and Gregory T. Stricker will perform 500 hours of community service. SRC was sentenced to two years of probation. In addition, SRC was fined \$30,000 and

ordered to make a community service payment in the amount of \$20,000 to Ducks Unlimited.

In total, the Strickers and SRC were ordered to pay \$160,000 in fines and community service for their conduct of conviction.

On December 3, 2010, Thomas J. Stricker, Gregory T. Stricker, and SRC were charged in a one-count Information for illegally discharging industrial wastewater into the City of Cleveland sewer system. Thomas J. Stricker and Gregory T. Stricker are the owners and operators of SRC a metal plating company located in Cleveland, Ohio. As a part of the plating processes at SRC metals and chemicals such as copper, nickel, silver, zinc, and cyanide are used. Therefore, some wastewaters generated by SRC also contain copper, nickel, silver, zinc, and cyanide. To reduce the amount of pollutants discharged into the sewer system to an acceptable level, SRC processes its wastewater using a pretreatment system.

The information charged that from March 2007, through August 2007, on numerous occasions, Thomas J. Stricker and Gregory T. Stricker, bypassed or directed employees to bypass the pretreatment system at the SRC facility.

“Our natural resources must be protected from illegal discharges,” said Randall K. Ashe, Special Agent in Charge of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. “This prosecution sends a clear message that those that refuse to operate lawfully and pollute our waters will be vigorously prosecuted and will be held accountable for their illegal actions.”

This case was being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Brad J. Beeson following an investigation by the U.S. EPA Office of Criminal Enforcement,

Forensics, and Training, the Department of Defense -  
Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the Ohio  
Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, the  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the  
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, all members of  
the Northeast Ohio Environmental Crimes Task Force.

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