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**FORMER GLOUCESTER RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO UNLAWFUL
STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE**

(**Newport News, VA**) - Robert B. Whiteman, age 51, of Walls, Mississippi, has pled guilty to one count of unlawful storage of hazardous waste without a permit, in connection with the storage and abandonment of numerous 55-gallon drums containing toxic and corrosive waste at a property formerly owned by Whiteman in Gloucester, Virginia. Dana J. Boente, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement after Whiteman's plea of guilty today in a case pending before United States District Court Judge Mark S. Davis.

From 1998 through 2005, Whiteman operated a business in Virginia under the name of Control Products, USA ("Control Products"), which involved the construction of metal plating lines and the plating of steel shot in an on-site metal plating operation. "Plating" is a process to give a material a desired property, such as wear resistance, corrosion protection or a better appearance. Whiteman leased property for Control Products in an industrial park in Hayes, Virginia, from 1999 through 2005.

Control Products' metal plating operation consisted of coating steel shot (bb's) with a metallic layer using large nickel and tin plating tanks or "baths." The plating process also involved the use of hazardous substances such as sulfuric acid and nickel sulfamate. The plating process produced waste by-product that Whiteman stored in 55-gallon drums at the Hayes property.

Whiteman resided at an eight-acre residential property in Gloucester, Virginia. In May 2006, Whiteman transported numerous 55-gallon drums with plating wastes and one plating bath to the Gloucester property. In March 2007, the mortgage company foreclosed on the Gloucester property and found the abandoned drums and plating bath containing hundreds of pounds of corrosive and toxic liquids subsequently determined to be "hazardous" waste pursuant to federal law. The abandoned liquids contained such chemicals as sulfuric acid, nickel, lead, chrome and arsenic.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act prohibits the treatment, storage and disposal of any hazardous waste at facilities that have not obtained a permit issued by the

Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”). A federal investigation led by EPA Criminal Investigation Division determined that Whiteman did not have a permit to treat, store or dispose of hazardous waste at the Gloucester property. The disposal of the 55-gallon drums and a large quantity of contaminated soil resulted in a clean-up expense of approximately \$128,000.

Acting United States Attorney Boente stated that, “The United States Attorney’s Office is committed to the prosecution of environmental crimes to protect the citizens and natural resources of the Commonwealth. We recognize the EPA’s important role in protecting our environment.”

“Hazardous wastes are dangerous and must be stored and disposed properly to ensure that both the community and the environment are protected,” said David M. Dillon, EPA’s Special Agent in Charge. “Today’s guilty plea sends a clear message that those who knowingly disregard environmental laws will be prosecuted.”

Robert B. Whiteman is scheduled to be sentenced on April 17, 2009. On the charge of unlawful storage of hazardous waste without a permit, he faces a maximum term of five years imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release. The plea agreement also requires full restitution for the clean-up costs incurred in properly disposing of the hazardous waste.

The federal investigation was led by the Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division, with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office (HUD OIG), the Gloucester County Sheriff’s Office, the Virginia State Police and the police departments of Memphis, Tennessee and Walls, Mississippi. Assistant United States Attorney Brian J. Samuels and Special Assistant United States Attorney David Lastra prosecuted the case on behalf of the United States.

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