

Environmental Scientist Receives Prison Sentence

On February 2, 2005, Lawrence M. Fradkin, a former GS-15 Environmental Scientist with the EPA Office of Research and Development, was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio, to 18 months in prison, followed by 2 years probation. In addition, Fradkin was ordered to pay \$60,000 in restitution to EPA and a \$300 special assessment. This sentencing follows Fradkin's September 29, 2004, guilty plea to charges of accepting a bribe, conspiracy, and making a false statement.

Fradkin was employed as the Federal Technology Transfer Coordinator at the Andrew W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. In that position, Fradkin oversaw multi-year, multi-million dollar cooperative agreements between EPA and outside parties that promoted transferring environmental technology to the marketplace.

In late 2000, Fradkin urged a contractor to create a job under a contract he oversaw, encouraged an acquaintance to apply for that job, and then encouraged the contractor to hire the acquaintance for the \$60,000-a-year job. Fradkin then demanded that the acquaintance pay Fradkin \$10,000 per year for his assistance in getting and keeping the job. Fradkin also required the acquaintance to teach college courses and perform personal work for him at his home for no compensation.

In the spring of 2002, Fradkin recommended that a contractor whose contract he oversaw enter into a \$160,000 subcontract with a university to develop a database which identified EPA scientists and their areas of expertise for use by the private sector. Fradkin recommended that the university hire a particular person to develop the database. Fradkin conspired with that person to defraud the Government of \$60,000, of which Fradkin took \$30,000. Fradkin had developed the database on EPA time and sent it to the person, who then submitted it to the university. Fradkin's fraud caused the EPA to pay the subcontractor for a database that Fradkin developed on Government time.

Because of his Government position, Fradkin was required to annually submit an official financial disclosure form to EPA, which also required disclosing any outside employment. Fradkin admitted that from 1994 through 2002, he filed nine false disclosure forms in which he failed to disclose his outside employment. The total amount of income from the unreported outside employment was \$147,284.