

Contractor Employee Sentenced to Prison

On September 15, 2005, a contractor employee from Whitehall, Pennsylvania, was sentenced in U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, to 21 months in prison and ordered to pay more than \$112,000 in restitution. This sentencing follows the employee's May 31, 2005, guilty plea to one count of mail fraud and two counts of making false statements.

The employee was employed at Boyko Petroleum Services, Inc., where he was responsible for environmental sampling and completing Underground Storage Tank (UST) Closure Reports. The employee engaged in a scheme to prepare and mail fraudulent environmental test reports in connection with the UST Closure Reports. The scheme involved falsifying chain of custody forms and analytical laboratory reports and forging signatures in order to complete the documents necessary for the closure reports for the employee's customers.

The UST Closure Reports identify leaks of petroleum or other contaminants from the underground storage tank that could contaminate the ground, groundwater, or wells. Any contamination would require certain cleanup procedures to be implemented to minimize or prevent the contamination. The employee falsified environmental reports to make it appear that no contamination existed. Thus, the employee's customers could complete the UST Closure Reports and avoid any expenses that they might incur if contamination had been detected. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has been the designated authority by EPA to accept UST Closure Reports.

This investigation was conducted jointly with the EPA Criminal Investigation Division.