



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277*

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

July 7, 2008

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: HSKM Inc.

Corporation Pleaded Guilty to PCB-Related Offense

A corporation formerly known as Hoskins Manufacturing Company, and now known as HSKM, Inc., entered a guilty plea today in United States District Court in Bay City, Michigan, U. S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. The company pleaded guilty to a one count information charging it violated the Toxic Substance Control Act.

Hoskins Manufacturing once had facilities in Mio, Charlevoix and Hamburg, Michigan, as well as elsewhere. The information filed with the court charges that the company abandoned a non-leaking, PCB-containing transformer at its Hamburg facility. Such conduct constitutes improper disposal under the federal Toxic Substances Control Act.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Hoskins Manufacturing became the focus of a joint investigation by those agencies after EPA Superfund emergency response teams responded to the three abandoned manufacturing sites in Michigan in 2003 and 2004. As part of the plea agreement between the now-defunct corporation and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan, \$1.7 million in Superfund costs will be repaid by the defendant over the course of a year.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Today's plea demonstrates the commitment of my office, U.S. EPA and the MDEQ to pursue possible violations of federal environmental laws. I commend the excellent work done by those agencies in connection with the investigation and prosecution of this case."