



17 May 2007 **AMITECH Sentencing**

**AMITECH USA, L.L.C., SENTENCED TO \$1,070,000 FINE IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, FOR CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATION**

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today that Amitech USA, L.L.C., a pipe manufacturing company located in Zachary, Louisiana, was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ralph E. Tyson to pay a fine of \$1,070,000, community restitution of \$100,000, and serve three years probation based on Amitech’s failure to report unpermitted air emissions, in violation of Title 42, United States Code, Section 7413(c)(2)(A) (Federal Clean Air Act).

The charges arose from an investigation by a federal grand jury, the Criminal Investigation Division of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA-CID), the Louisiana State Police (LSP), the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the U.S. Attorney’s Office. The investigation determined that Amitech’s Zachary facility produced pipe during the Spring of 2003 without the required environmental controls to limit the emission of styrene, a hazardous air pollutant. At the time, William S. McCann was the manager of the facility and knew that the facility was operating without a condenser to limit styrene emissions. Amitech sold the illegally produced pipe to the governments of Venezuela and Jordan for hundreds of thousands of dollars.

William S. McCann, the former plant manager of Amitech’s facility in Zachary, Louisiana, has pled guilty to illegal air emissions, in violation of Title 42, United States Code, Section 7413(c)(4) (negligent endangerment). McCann faces up to one year in prison, a \$100,000 fine, or both. He is scheduled to be sentenced on July 26, 2007.

United States Attorney Dugas said, “This office will continue to aggressively pursue both individuals and organizations who violate the environmental laws. Such violations often jeopardize the health and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana and will not be tolerated.”

“Criminal enforcement is a top priority precisely because defendants like Amitech knowingly disregard the law to make illegal profits,” said Granta Y. Nakayama, EPA’s Assistant Administrator of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. “Emission controls protect the air we breathe and when companies and their managers violate the law, they will be vigorously prosecuted.”

Colonel Henry Whitehorn, Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, said he was pleased with the outcome of such an important and arduous investigation. “Complicated investigations of this nature necessitate multi-agency cooperation, and the departments involved in this case have a long history of working together. We take environmental crimes very seriously in our state and will continue to seek out those individuals who continue to have no regard for our environment,” said Colonel Whitehorn.

Harold Leggett of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality stated: “DEQ continues to support the collaborative partnership efforts between state and federal enforcement agents. This partnership fosters good business practices and wise stewardship of the environmental resources of the state.”