



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas

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CORRECTED RELEASE

EL-BECK FOUND GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT IN OSCEOLA ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE CASE

Little Rock, AR- U.S. Attorney Bud Cummins announced today that Wally K. El-Beck, age 61, of **Springfield, ILLINOIS** was found guilty after a trial by jury of 37 counts of mail fraud and one count of wire fraud. The case was tried before United States District Judge G. Thomas Eisele.

“This case demonstrates our commitment to prosecuting environmental crimes and protecting the Natural State’s environment and natural resources,” said Cummins.

According to the indictment, El-Beck leased an Industrial Waste Incinerator from the City of Osceola to incinerate medical and industrial waste. The truckloads of waste would be delivered in large drums to the incinerator at Osceola. El-Beck represented to customers through Certificates of Destruction that their waste was being incinerated when in fact, he was accumulating the waste in warehouses. Over 13,000 drums were discovered by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. This was reported immediately to the Environmental Protection Agency and El-Beck’s permit to incinerate was revoked. Because the waste had not been destroyed as previously represented by El-Beck, the customers were required, at additional expense, to reclaim the waste and have it destroyed elsewhere. Over 4 million dollars has been spent thus far from the EPA Superfund to clean-up this site. This is in addition to more than one million dollars spent by the victim companies who had paid El-Beck to incinerate their waste.

El-Beck is subject to a potential statutory penalty of not more than 20 years and/or \$250,000 for each of the 37 Mail Fraud counts and the Wire Fraud count. The actual sentence will be determined by the Court at a future date.

This prosecution is the result of the combined efforts of the Environmental Protection Agency-Criminal Investigation Division, the United States Postal Service with substantial assistance from the Osceola Police Department, Chief Ray Rigsby. All contributed to this successful prosecution effort.

Assistant United States Attorneys Angela Jegley and Patrick Harris presented the case for the United States.

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