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PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR FOR HARLEM, GEORGIA
PLEADS GUILTY TO CLEAN WATER ACT VIOLATIONS

AUGUSTA, GA: Edmund A. Booth, Jr., United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced that Daniel Webster Cason, the Public Works Director for the City of Harlem, Georgia who is responsible for the operation of that city's Wastewater Treatment Plant, entered a plea of guilty today in U.S. District Court in Augusta before U. S. District Judge J. Randal Hall to three counts of making false statements in records and reports regarding the Treatment Plant's measurements of fecal coliform and biochemical oxygen demand in violation of Title 33, United States Code, Section 1319(c)(4).

Booth stated that the evidence at the guilty plea hearing showed that Cason not only made false statements in records and reports regarding the Treatment Plant's measurements of fecal coliform and biochemical oxygen demand but he also knowingly caused pumping with a portable pump from the Treatment Plant into the Uchee Creek tributary located adjacent to the Treatment Plant, without a permit.

According to Booth, Cason faces a maximum statutory penalty of two years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine on each count of conviction. After completion of a pre-sentence investigation and report, a sentencing date will be set.

Booth commented that “the investigation of the City of Harlem, Georgia’s Wastewater Treatment Plant and this prosecution demonstrate the commitment of the United States Attorney’s Office to the Clean Water Act’s goal of restoring and maintaining the quality of the Nation’s waters.” Booth continued by saying that “ those who engage in criminal conduct which undermines the efforts of the Environmental Protection Agency to protect the public and the environment will be prosecuted .” Maureen O’Mara, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Environmental Protection Agency’s criminal enforcement program in Atlanta, emphasized that “accurate information is essential for federal, state and local governments to assure compliance with environmental regulations.”

The successful investigation was conducted by EPA Special Agent Charles Carfagno, assisted by FBI Special Agent Paul Kubala of Augusta. The government is being represented in this case by Assistant United States Attorneys David M. Stewart and Carlton Bourne, Jr.