



# United States Attorneys' Bulletin



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**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION**

The following is an update of recently decided cases worked on jointly by the Environmental Crimes Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division and the United States Attorneys' offices:

**U.S. v. Wade Jones Co., Inc. (Cr. 94-50023, W.D. Arkansas) (RCRA) (7/19/94)**

On July 19, 1994, pursuant to a plea agreement, the Wade Jones Company (WJC) pled guilty to a one-count felony information under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), which charged the unlawful disposal of hazardous waste, and was sentenced to a \$50,000 fine. WJC, a Texas corporation, which maintains its primary offices in Lowell, Arkansas, is a manufacturer and wholesale distributor of poultry health products including vitamins, disinfectants, pharmaceuticals, and feed additives. The RCRA plea stems from the September 24, 1992, disposal of approximately 2,500 gallons of hazardous waste from the company's pretreatment holding tanks onto company grounds. Employees of the company intentionally pumped the waste from the tanks because the pretreatment system was out of service and the waste could not be properly treated and discharged into the city sewer. The waste, which included mainly rinse water from product blending operations, was determined to be TCLP hazardous waste due to the presence of cresol above the regulatory threshold.

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**U.S. v. Daniel Rodriguez-Castro, (D. Colorado) (PCB Export) (6/29/94)**

Daniel Rodriguez was sentenced to a year of incarceration, as required by the court's final acceptance of his binding plea agreement, and a year of supervised release. On June 7, 1994, Rodriguez entered a guilty plea to a charge of conspiracy to illegally export PCBs to Mexico. He was charged on December 16, 1993, in a four-count indictment with illegal storage of PCBs, perjury and the conspiracy (to which he pled guilty). Rodriguez was involved in a scheme to move 175 drums of oil containing PCBs into Mexico via El Paso. The drums of oil were generated by Weaver Electric and illegally stored by Martha Slusser at her horse ranch near Denver. The drums were illegally stored in several locations after being shipped to El Paso in January 1989 and were discovered by the local fire department in October 1989, prior to any of the drums being moved into Mexico. Rodriguez subsequently denied his involvement in the plot before the grand jury in Denver. Rodriguez is the sixth defendant connected with the Weaver Electric case to be sentenced to a term of imprisonment. The Weaver case is the second to result in the incarceration of six individuals, which is the largest number of individuals ever to be imprisoned in one case. In December 1992, Weaver Electric, which buys, refurbishes and sells used electrical equipment and is located in Denver, was sentenced to a fine of \$200,000 and is required, as a term of probation, to spend an additional \$300,000 on EPA-approved environmental compliance activities at its two sites while remaining responsible for all cleanup costs caused by its illegal activities.

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**U.S. v. Robert H. Hopkins, (D. Connecticut) (CWA) (7/20/94)**

Robert H. Hopkins, the former vice president of manufacturing at Spirol International Corporation, was sentenced to 21 months in prison, three years of supervised release and a \$7,500 fine. On May 5, 1994, following a two-day trial, a jury convicted Hopkins on all three counts charged in a Clean Water