

**Appendix E: Annual Enforcement Report FY 2023-Criminal Convictions**

<b>1. Case Name</b>	<b>Media Type</b>	<b>Number of Defendants</b>	<b>Felony Counts</b>	<b>Misdemeanor Counts</b>	<b>Date of Case Resolution</b>
Nasser Ziaforoughi	WQ	1 Individual		1	9/16/2022
<p>On September 16, 2022, Nasser Ziaforoughi pleaded guilty to one count of Unauthorized Discharge, in violation of Texas Water Code § 7.147.</p> <p>Mr. Ziaforoughi was ordered to serve six months deferred adjudication, perform eight hours of Community Service and pay \$125 in restitution to Public Works of Galveston.</p> <p>TCEQ ECU and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Criminal Investigation Division (CID) investigated and determined Nasser Ziaforoughi was responsible for unauthorized discharges of contaminated gasoline mixture into a storm drain.</p> <p>The case was prosecuted by the Galveston County Attorney’s Office.</p>					

<b>2. Case Name</b>	<b>Media Type</b>	<b>Number of Defendants</b>	<b>Felony Counts</b>	<b>Misdemeanor Counts</b>	<b>Date of Case Resolution</b>
Sarbali Alloys LLC.	WQ	1 Individual 1 Corporation	2		10/12/2022
<p>On October 12, 2022, charges of Unauthorized Discharge, in violation of Texas Water Code § 7.145 against Sarbali Alloy LLC. and Irfan Patel were dismissed after the successful completion of a Pre-Trial Intervention Agreement executed on May 4, 2022.</p> <p>The Pre-Trial Intervention Agreement required Sarbali to conduct business operations in compliance with all environmental statutes, regulations, rules, and ordinances, and any existing business operations were subject to inspection by environmental enforcement officers, including peace officers, to ensure compliance with all environmental matters. The agreement also required Sarbali to contribute \$40,000 to various Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) in and managed by Harris County, including a Precinct 1 SEP and the Buffalo Bayou Partnership.</p> <p>TCEQ ECU and Houston Police Department, Environmental Investigations Unit investigated and determined Sarbali Alloy LLC. and Irfan Patel were responsible for unauthorized discharges of petroleum hydrocarbon substances and automobile fluids into or adjacent to water in the state.</p> <p>The case was prosecuted by the Harris County District Attorney’s Office.</p>					

<b>3. Case Name</b>	<b>Media Type</b>	<b>Number of Defendants</b>	<b>Felony Counts</b>	<b>Misdemeanor Counts</b>	<b>Date of Case Resolution</b>
All Test Service Solutions	WQ/PI	2 Individuals		2	11/17/2022
<p>On November 15, 2022, Kolton Cloud Hodges was sentenced for one count of Tampering with a Governmental Record, in violation of Texas Penal Code § 37.10.</p> <p>Mr. Hodges was ordered to serve two years deferred adjudication and to surrender his Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester (BPAT) license.</p> <p>TCEQ ECU investigated and determined Mr. Hodges was responsible for falsifying BPAT testing results and submitting the results to Tarrant County.</p> <p>On November 17, 2022, Kasey Clay Turner was sentenced for one count of Tampering with a Governmental Record, in violation of Texas Penal Code § 37.10.</p> <p>Mr. Turner was ordered to serve two years deferred adjudication and to surrender his irrigation license.</p> <p>TCEQ ECU investigated and determined Mr. Turner, owner of All Test Service Solutions, was responsible for falsifying rain freeze testing results and submitting the results to Tarrant County.</p> <p>Both cases were prosecuted by the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office.</p>					

<b>4. Case Name</b>	<b>Media Type</b>	<b>Number of Defendants</b>	<b>Felony Counts</b>	<b>Misdemeanor Counts</b>	<b>Date of Case Resolution</b>
Lupe Gonzales	SW	1 Individual	1		12/13/2022
<p>On December 13, 2022, Lupe Gonzales pleaded guilty to one count of Illegal Dumping, in violation of Texas Health &amp; Safety Code § 365.012.</p> <p>Ms. Gonzales was ordered to serve five years of probation and pay a \$10,000 fine.</p> <p>TCEQ ECU investigated and determined Ms. Gonzales was responsible for illegally dumping solid waste consisting of scrap tires.</p> <p>The case was prosecuted by Atascosa County District Attorney's Office.</p>					

5. Case Name	Media Type	Number of Defendants	Felony Counts	Misdemeanor Counts	Date of Case Resolution
Tres Rios	WA	2 Individuals 2 Corporations		50	2/15/2023 3/27/2023 4/24/2023
<p>On February 15, 2023, Casper Joe Ringelstein was found guilty by a jury for 14 counts of Unlawful Use of State Water without a permit, in violation of Texas Water Code § 7.142.</p> <p>Mr. Ringelstein was ordered to serve two years of probation and 60 hours of community service and assessed a \$14,000 fine.</p> <p>On March 27, 2023, Casper Joe Ringelstein pleaded guilty to one count of Unlawful Use of State Water in excess of a permit, in violation of Texas Water Code § 7.142.</p> <p>Mr. Ringelstein was sentenced to one day in jail.</p> <p>On March 27, 2023, David Bloemer pleaded guilty to one count of Unlawful Use of State Water in excess of a permit, in violation of Texas Water Code § 7.142.</p> <p>Mr. Bloemer was sentenced to one day in jail.</p> <p>On March 27, 2023, Tres Rios Oilfield Services Inc. pleaded guilty to 17 counts of Unlawful Use of State Water, in violation of Texas Water Code § 7.142.</p> <p>Tres Rios Oilfield Services Inc. was ordered to pay \$17,000 in fines.</p> <p>On April 4, 2023, JLP Holdings LLC pleaded guilty to 17 counts of Unlawful Use of State Water, in violation of Texas Water Code § 7.142.</p> <p>JLP Holdings LLC was assessed \$17,000 in fines.</p> <p>TCEQ ECU investigated and determined Mr. Ringelstein and David Bloemer, owners of Tres Rios Oilfield Services Inc., and Jeffery Pollok, owner of JLP Holdings LLC and the property where the water was taken, were responsible for taking water from Cibolo Creek without required authorization.</p> <p>The cases were prosecuted by the Travis County Attorney’s Office.</p>					

<b>6. Case Name</b>	<b>Media Type</b>	<b>Number of Defendants</b>	<b>Felony Counts</b>	<b>Misdemeanor Counts</b>	<b>Date of Case Resolution</b>
Ranuka Shyam Wanniarachchi	WQ/PI	1 Individual		1	3/8/2023
<p>On March 8, 2023, Ranuka Shyam Wanniarachchi pleaded guilty to one count of Tampering with a Governmental Record, in violation of Texas Penal Code § 37.10.</p> <p>Mr. Wanniarachchi was ordered to serve two years deferred adjudication and perform 80 hours of Community Service.</p> <p>TCEQ ECU investigated and determined Mr. Wanniarachchi ordered the tampering of the petroleum storage tank Automatic Tank Gauge records for his Petroleum Storage Tank facility.</p> <p>The case was prosecuted by the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office.</p>					

<b>7. Case Name</b>	<b>Media Type</b>	<b>Number of Defendants</b>	<b>Felony Counts</b>	<b>Misdemeanor Counts</b>	<b>Date of Case Resolution</b>
Tobey Bright	SW	1 Individual		1	4/10/2023
<p>On April 10, 2023, Tobey Bright pleaded guilty to one count of Illegal Dumping, in violation of Texas Health &amp; Safety Code § 365.012.</p> <p>Ms. Bright was ordered to serve one-year deferred adjudication and 60 hours of Community Service.</p> <p>TCEQ ECU assisted a Rusk County Sheriff's Office investigation, which determined Ms. Bright illegally dumped scrap tires.</p> <p>The case was prosecuted by the Rusk County District Attorney's Office.</p>					

8. Case Name	Media Type	Number of Defendants	Felony Counts	Misdemeanor Counts	Date of Case Resolution
Dupont	Air	1 Individual 1 Corporation		2	4/24/2023
<p>On April 24, 2023, DuPont pleaded guilty to one count of 42 U.S.C. § 7413(c)(4), Criminal Negligent Endangerment under the Clean Air Act.</p> <p>DuPont was sentenced to pay \$12 million in fines, pay \$4 million to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation pursuant to USSG § 8B1.3 and serve two years' probation.</p> <p>On April 24, 2023, Ken Sandel, former Operations Unit Leader at Dupont, pleaded guilty to one count of 42 U.S.C. § 7413(c)(4), Criminal Negligent Endangerment under the Clean Air Act.</p> <p>Mr. Sandel was sentenced to one year probation.</p> <p>As a result of this case and other related civil cases tied to the explosion, DuPont will have paid a total of \$19.26 million for its unlawful conduct.</p> <p>EPA CID with assistance from the TCEQ ECU and Texas Environmental Enforcement Task Force investigated and determined Dupont and Mr. Sandel were responsible for the negligent release of approximately 24,000 pounds of methyl mercaptan gas, which resulted in the death of four employees.</p> <p>The case was prosecuted by the Southern District of Texas with assistance from the Justice Department's Environmental Crimes Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division.</p>					

<b>9. Case Name</b>	<b>Media Type</b>	<b>Number of Defendants</b>	<b>Felony Counts</b>	<b>Misdemeanor Counts</b>	<b>Date of Case Resolution</b>
Maxwell Dumpsite	SW	2 Individuals	2		5/25/23 8/21/23
<p>On May 25, 2023, Samson Ray Chavez pleaded guilty to one count of Illegal Dumping, in violation of Texas Health &amp; Safety Code § 365.012.</p> <p>Mr. Chavez was sentenced to 14 months in a state jail facility.</p> <p>On August 21, 2023, Stanley Heath Maxwell entered into a plea agreement, which resolved multiple felony offenses, including aggravated robbery, Texas Penal Code § 29.03, and illegal dumping, Texas Health &amp; Safety Code § 365.012.</p> <p>Mr. Maxwell was sentenced to seven years in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice institutional division.</p> <p>TPWD CID and TCEQ ECU investigated and determined Mr. Maxwell allowed Mr. Chavez to illegally dump solid waste on Mr. Maxwell's property.</p> <p>The case was prosecuted by the Houston County District Attorney's Office.</p>					

<b>10. Case Name</b>	<b>Media Type</b>	<b>Number of Defendants</b>	<b>Felony Counts</b>	<b>Misdemeanor Counts</b>	<b>Date of Case Resolution</b>
Jed Allen Hicks	SW	1 Individual		1	7/13/2023
<p>On July 13, 2023, Jed Allen Hicks pleaded guilty to one count of Illegal Dumping, in violation of Texas Health &amp; Safety Code § 365.012.</p> <p>Mr. Hicks was ordered to serve two years of deferred adjudication and perform 80 hours of Community Service.</p> <p>TPWD CID and TCEQ ECU investigated and determined Mr. Hicks illegally dumped drums containing solid waste.</p> <p>The case was prosecuted by the Harris County District Attorney's Office.</p>					

11. Case Name	Media Type	Number of Defendants	Felony Counts	Misdemeanor Counts	Date of Case Resolution
Richard W. Kollin	WQ	1 Individual		2	8/17/2023
<p>On 08/17/23, Richard W. Kollin pleaded to two counts of violating TWC § 7.174(a).</p> <p>Mr. Kollin was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine.</p> <p>TCEQ ECU investigated and determined Mr. Kollin installed leaching panels at two separate residences without required permits.</p> <p>The case was prosecuted in Tyler County, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1.</p>					

## **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

AIR or AQ = air quality

ECU = Environmental Crimes Unit

PI = program integrity

SW = solid waste

U.S.C. = United States Code

WQ = water quality, including domestic and industrial wastewater treatment plants, stormwater, and sludge use operations (beneficial use sites and transporters)

WA = water availability