

United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency  
Region I

Office of  
Public Affairs  
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SDMS DocID  
285994  
VERMONT



# Environmental News

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February 27, 1989

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The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency together with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office have obtained a court ruling that holds three parties financially liable for the government cleanup of the Charles George hazardous waste site in Tyngsboro, MA. The ruling issued by the federal district court in Boston holds Charles George, Sr., Dorothy George, and the Charles George Trucking Co., Inc. liable under the federal and state Superfund laws.

"This decision is another milestone in our efforts to make waste handlers pay for the environmental problems they cause. If these individuals force us to litigate instead of helping to clean up these sites, the courts will help us ensure that they pay their dues," stated Michael R. Deland, Regional Administrator for EPA's New England office.

Stated Massachusetts Attorney General James M. Shannon, "This case represents a major victory in our effort to identify and hold liable those individuals responsible for creating the environmental catastrophe presented by uncontrolled hazardous waste sites."

(more)

The Charles George site operated as a landfill from 1967 until it was closed down by a state court order in 1983. During part of this time, hazardous wastes including toxic metals, waste oils and explosives were dumped at the site.

EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering have installed a water line to provide drinking water for nearby residents whose water has been contaminated by toxic wastes from the site and will cap the landfill to control leachate runoff.

The court's ruling holds Charles George, Sr. personally liable as a former owner and operator of the site. Charles George, Sr. was president, director, and shareholder of the Charles George Trucking Co., Inc. and a trustee of the Charles George Land Reclamation Trust which owned the site and under whose name the landfill operation was conducted.

Dorothy George was held personally liable because she owns a portion of the site and was also a trustee of the Charles George Land Reclamation Trust.

The court held the Charles George Trucking Co., Inc. liable because it transported hazardous waste to the landfill for disposal.

The defendants were held liable under the federal superfund law -- the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act -- and the Massachusetts counterpart -- the Oil and Hazardous Material Release, Prevention and Response Act.

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