

## **Crown Chemical president sentenced for illegal dumping**

Feb. 12 -- A federal court has sentenced the former president of Crown Chemical Inc. for illegally dumping chemical waste into an Illinois regional sewer system.

James E. Spain must pay a \$30,000 criminal fine and spend one year in home confinement, according to the sentence passed down this month by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District in Chicago. The court also ordered Spain to spend three years on probation. Spain pled guilty to illegally dumping chemical waste.

Crown Chemical, which also pled guilty, was sentenced to pay a criminal fine of \$100,000, spend a year on probation and make a public apology. The company's manager, Catalino Uy, was sentenced to pay a \$5,000 fine and spend two years on probation.

In 2006, the federal government charged the company with illegally discharging acidic and caustic wastewater, lying to federal investigators and conspiracy. Spain admitted he showed employees how to discharge untreated wastewater into local sewers and that the illegal dumping occurred for 16 years, from 1985 until 2001. The discharges ceased in 2001 after special agents from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency served the Crown Chemical facility with a criminal search warrant.

Spain also admitted to lying to federal investigators and telephoning employees before they arrived for work, telling them to lie to investigators about the discharges.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Joe Truini at 330-865-6166 or [jtruini@crain.com](mailto:jtruini@crain.com)