

# Former IN water plant superintendent pleads guilty

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WASHINGTON — As part of a plea agreement, a former wastewater treatment plant superintendent for the city of Rochester, IN, pleaded guilty on June 30 in federal court to falsifying monthly discharge monitoring reports that concealed violations of the Clean Water Act at the Rochester plant, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) said in a [news release](#).

Herbert L. Corn pleaded guilty in US District Court in South Bend, IN, to a five-count felony information charging him with making false statements in discharge monitoring reports. The reports had been submitted to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the DOJ said.

Corn admitted that from September 2004 through May 2007 he submitted at least five reports containing false data for treated water that is discharged from the Rochester plant into Mill Creek, a tributary of the Tippecanoe River.

Under the federal Clean Water Act, which is enforced by the state and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Rochester plant had to treat the water before discharging it, to meet concentration limits on certain pollutants specified in its permit. Three pollutants in the permit that have concentration limits are *E. coli* bacteria, ammonia NH<sub>3</sub>-N and carbonaceous biological oxygen demand-5 (CBOD).

Discharging above the limits for these pollutants violates the plant's permit and the Clean Water Act, according to the Justice Department. The Rochester plant is required to report and certify to IDEM the results of its discharge sampling on a monthly basis.

Corn admitted that he reported levels to IDEM that indicated the levels of *E. coli*, ammonia NH<sub>3</sub>-N, and CBOD-5 complied with the permit concentration limits, when he knew they did not, the DOJ release said. He could be sentenced to up to two years in prison and fined up to \$250,000 for each count, it said.