

Illegally dumped fuel waste enters Houston's source

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

HUMBLE, TX — Illegally dumped empty fuel containers and other waste from gas stations have pushed debris and contaminated water into the main source of drinking water for the city of Houston, according to a March 9 [report](#) on 11 News.

Houston Police have arrested Michael Wayne Young, 48, and charged him with two counts of felony illegal dumping in connection with illegal dikes that contain waste from abandoned gas stations. The buried waste was found alongside the San Jacinto River tributaries that run alongside Young's home in Humble, the report said.

According to a spokesman from the Houston Police Department's environmental protection unit, Young ran a waste-hauling company that removed tanks and equipment from abandoned gas stations around the Houston area. The dikes, which contain debris and contaminated dirt, have altered the flow of the San Jacinto and have pushed contaminated water into Lake Houston.

According to the 11 News report, police said the dumping, which had been going on for years, "has never resulted in unsafe drinking water because the chemicals were heavily diluted before reaching Lake Houston."

An investigation is ongoing. If Young is convicted of illegal dumping, he would be financially responsible for the site's cleanup.