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Arraignment in Alleged Bolton Wastewater Treatment Facility Records Fraud



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares today announced that THOMAS FRENCH, 37, of Bolton Landing, was arraigned on (4) Counts of Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree, as Misdemeanors, (4) Counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, each Class E Felonies, and (2) Counts of Tampering with or Knowingly Rendering Inaccurate any Monitoring Device or Method Required, each Class E Felonies, before the Honorable Holly Trexler in Albany City Court this morning.

Criminal complaints filed today with the Court allege that on several occasions during April and May of 2017, FRENCH intentionally falsified recordings of pH and Phosphate level readings in water sampled from Lake George at the Town of Bolton Wastewater Treatment Facility. FRENCH, who was the Chief Operator and Superintendent of the facility, allegedly then submitted these false records of the sampling results to be filed with the Town of Bolton and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at its state office headquarters in Albany. It is alleged that the improper entries on mandatory Wastewater Facility Operating Report forms were made with an intent to defraud the State.

FRENCH pleaded not guilty to the charges and was released on his own recognizance by the Court after the arraignment today. FRENCH is scheduled to re-appear in Albany City Court on Tuesday April 24, 2018.

The investigation was led by the DEC's Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigations Unit.

Assistant District Attorney Benjamin Mastaitis is handling the prosecution of this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh at (518) 275-4710 or cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov

***All charged individuals are presumed innocent
until proven guilty.***

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