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Super Radiator Coils of Phoenix to Pay \$85,000 Penalty to Resolve Hazardous Waste Management Violations

PHOENIX – (Dec.10, 2009) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Attorney General’s Office announced today that a Phoenix company which manufactures parts for the cooling and heating industry has agreed to pay an \$85,000 penalty under a consent judgment for treating hazardous waste without a permit, not labeling the waste correctly and not complying with training requirements for the handling of hazardous waste.

Super Radiator Coils, 2610 S. 21st Street, received a Notice of Violation in August 2007 after an ADEQ inspection found an uncovered, unlabeled 55-gallon metal drum containing oil, water and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) sitting atop a Bunsen burner connected to a propane cylinder. State and federal regulations prohibit the unpermitted treatment of hazardous waste.

Super Radiator Coils workers use PCE to remove oil from newly manufactured heat exchangers for air conditioners and heating units. They told ADEQ investigators that the treatment had been conducted for “some time” to reduce the amount of hazardous waste by removing excess water.

PCE, also known as perc, is a colorless organic liquid. PCE is a suspected carcinogen and liver, kidney, and central nervous system effects have been observed in humans who are occupationally exposed.

“Their hazardous management of hazardous waste put employees and the community at risk but the company has stepped up and improved the way it does business,” ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles said.

"Any company handling hazardous waste needs to rigorously comply with state standards to protect the health of our citizens and our environment," Attorney General Terry Goddard said. "Among Arizona's greatest assets are its natural beauty and quality of life. All of us - individuals and businesses alike - have a responsibility to protect those assets for future generations."

The consent judgment is subject to court approval.

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