

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Court Orders Clifton Tire & Auto LLC to Pay \$106,168 to Resolve Underground Storage Tank Violations in Clifton

PHOENIX (Feb. 22, 2012) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Attorney General's Office announced today that Clifton Tire & Auto LLC has been ordered by a Maricopa County Superior Court judge to pay \$106,168 for underground storage tank violations in the Town of Clifton in Greenlee County.

Repeated ADEQ inspections – in May 2006, June 2008 and September 2008 – resulted in multiple notice of opportunity to correct (NOC) deficiencies to Clifton Tire & Auto LLC. The NOCs requested the company submit test reports of automatic line leak detectors and a tank gauge system and provide documentation of financial responsibility.

The NOCs also requested the maintenance of corrosion protection in the two tanks, one 10,000 gallons and the other 6,000 gallons, and to remove product within the tanks to less than 1 inch in depth as required in state statutes. ADEQ investigators estimated that there were at least 3 inches of material in each of the tanks.

Clifton Tire & Auto LLC did not respond to the NOCs or a follow-up Compliance Order issued by ADEQ in June 2009. A Notice of Violation was issued to the company in December 2009 for failing to meet the compliance conditions of the order.

“These are serious compliance issues in underground storage tank maintenance that went on for many years,” said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. “Unfortunately, Clifton Tire and Auto’s unwillingness to cooperate left us with no choice but to seek a court-ordered solution to this matter.”

"All businesses that have underground storage tanks need to rigorously comply with state standards to protect the health of our citizens and our environment," Attorney General Tom Horne said.

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