

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Owners of Felton King Co. Ordered to Clean Up Contaminated Metal Plating Business Site

PHOENIX (April 20, 2012) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Attorney General's Office announced today that Felton E. and Luwalia M. King of Phoenix have been ordered to complete the cleanup of contamination at the central Phoenix metal plating business they previously owned at 611 S. 15th Ave.

For several years, ADEQ made numerous attempts to work with the Kings to ensure that dangerous hazardous wastes were properly managed at the Kings' business, which specialized in various types of plating.

In November 2008, ADEQ's hazardous waste inspectors found that dangerous heavy metals like chromium and cadmium and corrosive and acidic hazardous wastes, including cyanide, were being illegally stored on the property, leading to releases in the soil. In early 2009, Felton King Co. abandoned the property, leaving large quantities of hazardous waste behind.

Given the imminent threat to the surrounding community, ADEQ worked with EPA in June 2009 to remove the hazardous waste from the site and to clean up the most contaminated soil. Additional remediation is required, however, to prevent the hazardous waste remaining in the soil from migrating into the groundwater or off site where it could pose renewed risk to the community.

To address the remaining contamination, ADEQ officials filed suit in Maricopa County Superior Court against the Kings in June 2011. On March 29, 2012, the court ordered Felton King Co. and the Kings to complete the cleanup or to place \$250,000 in a cleanup fund.

"We attempted unsuccessfully to work with Felton King Co. and Mr. King for many years to clean up this very dangerous site, which was near numerous homes," said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. "However, the company's lack of cooperation forced us to seek this remedy."

"Any company handling hazardous waste needs 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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