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Veolia ES Technical Solutions to Pay \$360,000 in Civil Penalties for Hazardous Waste Violations

PHOENIX (April 3, 2015) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality announced today that Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC, of Phoenix, will pay \$360,000 in civil penalties under a consent judgment for illegally disposing hazardous waste to a sand and gravel pit near the Salt River in 2009.

In response to a complaint in April 2009, ADEQ compliance officers inspected a sand and gravel pit in which they observed crushed lamps, intact fluorescent lamps, intact metal halide lamps, intact compact fluorescent lamps, and other lamp related debris in a portion of the sand and gravel pit that was less than 600 feet from the Salt River. The investigation revealed the lamps and broken glass had been generated by Veolia. Samples of the broken glass taken from the pit were found to be above regulatory thresholds for mercury.

An inspection of Veolia's facility in May 2009 resulted in ADEQ issuing a Notice of Violation to the company for improper sampling equipment and techniques, inadequate response to high mercury samples, open containers, containers in poor condition, hazardous waste on the ground, and disposal of hazardous waste without a permit. Veolia staff also had failed to examine lab reports to verify if hazardous waste was being sent to the landfill.

Since the activities of 2009, Veolia has improved processes at their facility; and had been in compliance with its hazardous waste storage permit and related hazardous waste generator requirements during recent inspections.

“As a result of our agency’s investigation and holding the company accountable for its violations, Veolia has improved its operations and is now in compliance with all conditions of its permit, thus ensuring public health and the environment are protected,” ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said.

The settlement is subject to court approval.

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