

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conn-Selmer of Nogales to Pay \$150,000 Penalty to Resolve Hazardous Waste Violations in Santa Cruz County

PHOENIX (Oct. 15, 2010) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Attorney General's Office announced today that Conn-Selmer Inc. has agreed to pay a \$150,000 penalty under a consent judgment for hazardous waste violations at its Santa Cruz County groundwater remediation system, located in Nogales.

In addition to the penalty, Conn-Selmer will begin an environmental management system on site and perform two environmental audits at its facility, located at 1310 W. Fairway Drive. The facility went into operation in 1998 to remove volatile organic compounds, primarily trichloroethylene (TCE) and 1,1,1 trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA), from the groundwater of the site that it once operated as a musical instrument manufacturing plant. TCE and 1,1,1-TCA are both industrial solvents.

ADEQ issued A Notice of Violation to Conn-Selmer in November 2006 for oversight deficiencies including lack of proper signs, a contingency plan that listed an ex-employee as emergency coordinator and no emergency response equipment except outdated fire extinguishers, no daily inspections of its hazardous waste equalization tank, no written log of inspections and no full-time environmental manager on site.

"Environmental stewardship is always good business because it saves money over the long run and reduces risk to public health. In this case, the company had significant oversight issues but it did step forward to fix the waste violations and invest in long term compliance and that's good news for the environment and economy of Arizona," ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles said.

"Any company handling industrial solvents needs to rigorously comply with state standards to protect the health of our citizens and our environment," Attorney General Terry Goddard said.

Conn-Selmer manufactured clarinets and trombones and assembled saxophones from 1966 through 2003 and its industrial and sanitary waste water was treated onsite and moved to unlined storage impoundments on its property. Contaminants from the impoundments leached from the soil into the groundwater and the impoundments were closed in 1985 before cleanup operations began.

The consent judgment is subject to court approval.

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