FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parker Plate LLC to Pay $51,000 Penalty to Resolve Hazardous Waste Violations as Part of ADEQ’s “Plating Initiative”

PHOENIX (Nov. 16, 2011) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Attorney General’s Office announced today that Parker Plate, LLC will pay a $51,000 penalty as part of a consent judgment for hazardous waste violations at its former La Paz County plating facility.

The settlement with Parker Plate, which manufactured custom license plate frames, brings to 13 the number of electroplating facilities in Arizona brought into compliance with hazardous-waste rules under ADEQ's "Plating Initiative." ADEQ launched the initiative in 2008 after facility inspections beginning in 2004 determined that many facilities were not in compliance with the Arizona Hazardous Waste Management Act, which regulates hazardous waste in the state.

The company was cited for a number of violations following repeated ADEQ inspections from 2006 through 2009. The violations included treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous waste without a permit; failing to properly mark containers and tanks; improperly storing and characterizing hazardous waste; failure to comply with emergency preparedness requirements; not having a contingency plan; and failure to have personnel training requirements.

A total of 860,000 pounds of soil was removed during environmental remediation because of chromium contamination at the site.

"Their inappropriate management of hazardous waste contaminated an area with close proximity to homes and other businesses," said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin.

"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.

The consent judgment is subject to court approval.

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