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Grand Jury Indictment on Emissions Scam

A Fairbanks grand jury has indicted Robert A. Piser, James M. Trexler and Jeffrey J. Smith on multiple felony counts of issuing and/or using fraudulent Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) certificates to register vehicles with the State of Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles. The investigation was conducted by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Environmental Crimes Unit with the assistance of the Fairbanks Police Department and the Eielson Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

In early 2009, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Office discovered that some certified I/M test stations/mechanics had issued fraudulent emission certificates. The Borough brought the matter to the attention of DEC, which initiated an investigation. Of concern to the state are several certified mechanics and test stations that allegedly sold or issued fraudulent I/M certificates to vehicle owners.

The Office of Special Prosecutions & Appeals in the Attorney General's Office is handling the case for the state. Additional charges against other individuals or business are anticipated.