



April 12, 2013

### **Kodiak Man Pleads Guilty to Illegal Use of Pesticides**

On April 12, 2013, 53-year-old Anthony M. Sanchez of Kodiak pled guilty in Anchorage to one class A misdemeanor count of commercial application of a pesticide without being certified as a pesticide applicator. Mr. Sanchez will pay a fine of \$4,000 with \$3,500 suspended and serve two years of informal probation.

The charge and guilty plea were based on an investigation by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (ADEC) Division of Environmental Health and the Environmental Crimes Unit that found Mr. Sanchez was doing business as Island Pest Control in Kodiak, Alaska during the summer of 2011. Mr. Sanchez was previously certified by DEC as a pesticide applicator. This certification expired on December 31, 2009. A DEC Environmental Program Specialist spoke to Sanchez during the summer of 2010. She was conducting inspections of pesticide use and sales on Kodiak. She discovered that the Defendant was doing business as Island Pest Control and holding himself out as a certified pesticide applicator, with a current listing in the Yellow Pages advertising pest control services. Mr. Sanchez acknowledged that his certification had expired, and he was aware that he was required to be licensed and certified to conduct applications. Mr. Sanchez informed DEC at that time he would obtain certification and he never did. Upon learning that Mr. Sanchez continued to apply pesticides illegally in 2011, criminal charges were brought.

Pesticides are intended to limit the potential for disease, but in order to be effective, they must be properly applied. By their nature, many pesticides may pose a risk to humans, animals, or the environment because they are designed to kill or otherwise adversely affect living organisms. Safely using pesticides depends on using the appropriate pesticide and using it correctly. Certification is an essential step in ensuring the proper use of these toxic chemicals and thus, the safety of public health and the environment.

The Environmental Crimes Unit (ECU) has statewide responsibility for the investigation and prosecution of violations of environmental law. If you have any

information regarding environmental crimes, please contact the ECU and visit its webpage at: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/das/ecu/index.htm>.

CONTACT: Assistant Attorney General Carole Holley at (907) 269-6250 in the Office of Special Prosecutions.