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# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Olson sentenced for theft and illegally installing septic systems**

**Dec. 9, 2005**—Gerald R. Olson was fined and sentenced in Palmer Superior Court today for theft and illegally installing septic systems. Olson, who resides in Fairbanks, pled guilty to one felony and four misdemeanor counts. Under the terms of a plea agreement approved by the court, he will pay restitution to his victims in the amount of \$48,649, spend 90 days in jail, and be on probation for 5 years. One of the conditions of Mr. Olson's probation is that if he is to be self-employed, he must be licensed and bonded and have the approval of his probation officer. In addition to the restitution, the Court fined Olson \$5,000, which was suspended.

In November 2002, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Environmental Crimes Unit initiated a criminal investigation, following reports that Mr. Olson had knowingly and intentionally installed at least seven septic systems without DEC's approval and had misrepresented himself as a certified installer. Olson installed a number of illegal septic systems in Peters Creek and Wasilla, beginning in 2001. Most of the systems did not function properly at the time of installation, or failed shortly thereafter.

State investigators arrested Olson at his Chena Hot Springs residence on a felony warrant on July 9, 2004.

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