

**Booth Goodwin, United States Attorney  
Southern District of West Virginia**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 26, 2012

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**MASON COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION VIOLATION**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin announced that a Mason County man pleaded guilty on Monday (Sept. 24) to dumping a pollutant into waters of the United States without a permit. Francis Zuspan, also known as “Frank Zuspan,” 61, of Mason County, W.Va., admitted that in or about December 2010, he took a 2400-gallon sewage hauling truck to property in Mason County, W.Va. and illegally dumped sewage onto the property. Zuspan further admitted that the sewage was dumped into a lake and stream watershed in Mason County that connected to the Ohio River. The defendant also admitted that he discharged untreated sewage onto the Mason County property on multiple occasions between November 2010 and February 2011.

“The proper collection and treatment of sewage plays a vital role in protecting the public health and our environment” said David G. McLeod, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of EPA’s Criminal Enforcement program in West Virginia. “Today’s guilty plea should serve notice that EPA will vigorously prosecute those who put the public at potential risk and despoil our environment through illegal discharges into our waterways.”

Zuspan faces up to six years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced on January 14, 2013 by United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers.

The Environmental Protection Agency conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Erik S. Goes is in charge of the prosecution.

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