

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE**

February 13, 2003 - United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan today announced the filing of an Indictment* against **Gary Wasserson**, CEO of Sterling Supply Company, charging that in September 1999, Wasserson caused the illegal transportation and disposal of hazardous waste. Sterling Supply Company maintained a warehouse at 5697 Rising Sun Avenue in Philadelphia and was a supplier of dry cleaning products to local dry cleaning establishments until it ceased operation in 1994. While in operation, Sterling Supply Company accumulated hundreds of drums and containers of chemicals, such as, acetone, sodium perborate tetrahydrate, sodium hydrosulfite, isopropanol, tetrachloroethylene (also known as perchloroethylene), methylene chloride, isopropanol, xylene and naphalene. In September 1999, Wasserson illegally transported and disposed of much of Sterling Supply Company's former inventory of chemicals.

Pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6901 et seq. (RCRA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the states regulate various types of solid wastes as hazardous wastes. Under RCRA, hazardous waste has the characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity which, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious, irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed. RCRA criminalizes the transportation of hazardous waste without a manifest, the transportation of hazardous waste to a facility that does not have a permit to handle such waste, and the disposal of hazardous waste without a permit.

According to the Indictment, acetone, sodium perborate tetrahydrate, sodium hydrosulfite, isopropanol, tetrachloroethylene (also known as perchloroethylene), methylene chloride, isopropanol, xylene and naphalene are either toxic or ignitable hazardous wastes, the transportation and disposal of which are regulated by RCRA. It is alleged that Wasserson violated RCRA by causing the disposal and transportation of the hazardous wastes at the Girard Point Transfer Station in Philadelphia, and then at Modern Landfill in York, Pennsylvania.

DEFENDANT	ADDRESS	AGE [Date of Birth]
Gary J. Wasserson	534 Righters Mill Road Narberth, PA 19072	2/7/56

If convicted the defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of 12 years imprisonment, a \$150,000 fine, three years supervised release, and a \$300 special assessment.

The case was investigated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Anita Eve.

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***An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.**