

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
District of Oregon**



**PRESS ROOM**

January 15, 2009

**OWNER/PRESIDENT OF THE FORMER COLUMBIA AMERICAN  
PLATING COMPANY SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR  
VIOLATING FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS**

Portland, Ore. – Larry Anson, 62, was sentenced today in federal court before U.S. District Court Judge James A. Redden to 12 months and one day imprisonment for violating the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA). Anson must also pay a fine of \$3,000. Upon his release from prison the defendant will serve a two year term of supervised release.

On March 11, 2008, Anson pled guilty to violating RCRA, a felony, and admitted that on or between March 1, 2001 and May 9, 2003, in Portland, Oregon, he unlawfully and knowingly stored hazardous waste -- spent cyanide plating bath solutions from electroplating operations -- without a valid permit. He also pled guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the CWA and admitted that on or between August 7, 2001 and May 9, 2003, he negligently operated a source, namely Columbia American Plating Company, in violation of the federally enforceable industrial wastewater discharge effluent standards imposed by the City of Portland, Oregon, by negligently causing pollutants and hazardous substances to be introduced into the sewer system.

“While environmental regulations can sometimes be costly, it is simply a fact of business that they are costs companies must shoulder for the protection of the environment and human health,” noted United States Attorney Karin J. Immergut. “This sentence should send a clear message to the community that we will aggressively prosecute those who disregard our environmental laws.”

“Since establishing Columbia America Plating in the late 1980s, defendant Larry Anson illegally managed hazardous waste containing cyanide and other toxic chemicals,” stated Acting Special Agent in Charge Tyler Amon for EPA’s Criminal Investigation Division in Seattle. “Today’s sentence holds this habitual violator criminally responsible for decades of violations assessed by the City of Portland and State of Oregon.”

To see the government's sentencing memorandum, [click here](#). To see the government's supplemental sentencing memorandum, [click here](#).

This case was investigated by the Environmental Protection Agency-Criminal Investigation Division (EPA-CID), the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Portland Fire Bureau. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Kerin.