



Department of Justice

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CHIEF OFFICER OF KOREAN CARGO SHIP PLEADS GUILTY TO POLLUTION RELATED CHARGE AND MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton today announced that Jeong Gyu Lee (age 44, a citizen of Korea), who served as the Chief Officer aboard the commercial vessel *M/V Ocean Jade*, has pleaded guilty in connection with dumping oily waste water into the ocean and making false statements to the United States Coast Guard. Lee faces a maximum sentence of six years in federal prison.

According to the plea agreement, Lee served as the Chief Officer aboard the *M/V Ocean Jade* from November 2007 to October 9, 2008. As Chief Officer, Lee was in charge of all deck operations and supervised several subordinate crew members. On September 27, 2008, Lee ordered subordinates to use a flexible hose to dump oily waste water from the vessel's crane houses directly into the ocean. Lee knew that the oily water should have been collected in drums and processed through the ship's pollution prevention equipment or disposed of at a shore facility. Lee also did not record the disposal of oily waste in the vessel's Oil Record Book, as required by law. On October 8-9, 2008, when the *M/V Ocean Jade* berthed in the Port of Tampa, Lee told his subordinates not to reveal the September 27 discharge of oily water to the Coast Guard. Three of those subordinates, and Lee

himself, subsequently provided false statements about the incident to the Coast Guard.

This case was investigated by United States Coast Guard, Coast Guard Investigative Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigative Division. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Cherie L. Krigsman and Department of Justice Trial Attorney Leslie Lehnert.