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PRESS RELEASE

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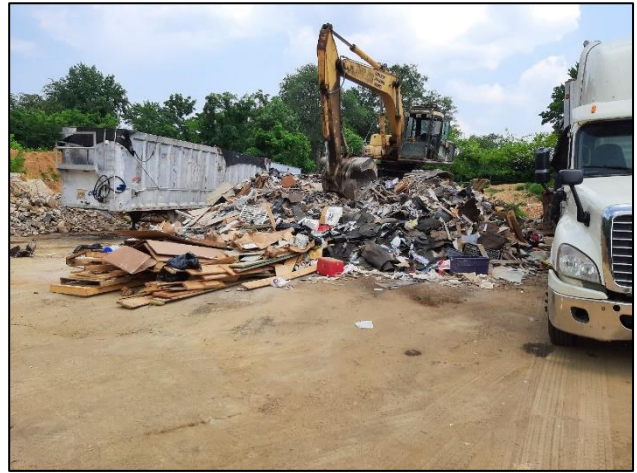
Owner of Unpermitted Solid Waste Transfer Station in Prince George's County Sentenced

BALTIMORE, MD (March 31, 2022) – Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown today announced that Arrington R. Hughes, pleaded guilty in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County to five counts of operating an unpermitted transfer station and five counts of engaging in solid waste handling in a manner likely to create a nuisance. The Honorable Judge Maureen M. Lamasney sentenced Hughes to one year of incarceration, all suspended, 5 years of supervised probation and ordered a fine of \$250,000, suspending \$125,000, to be paid to the Maryland Clean Water Fund.

Hughes, owner of A & K Services, Inc., operated a solid waste transfer station at 6707 Eads Street, Capitol Heights, Maryland. The area is residential and not zoned or permitted for use as a transfer station or refuse disposal facility. On multiple dates between July 2021 and December 2021, inspectors from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and an investigator from the Attorney General's Environmental Crimes Unit documented numerous private vehicles entering the site through a controlled gate and dumping solid waste into dumpsters or directly on to the ground. Employees then used excavators to sort the debris, described as cardboard, plastic, building material and trash bags, into large open top trailers. The operation created extensive dust and noise in the residential neighborhood. The investigation revealed that private haulers learned of the operation through word of mouth and paid in cash based on the estimated weight of each load of waste.



On July 7, 2021, the MDE inspector issued a site complaint to Hughes, and he agreed to cease operations. However, follow up inspections by both MDE and the Environmental Crimes Unit documented the continued dumping by haulers and subsequent sorting and transferring of solid waste by Hughes' employees in August, November, and December. The investigation revealed that the operation processed approximately 20,000 tons of waste per year in 2019 and 2020. Hughes ultimately cleaned the site to the satisfaction of the MDE and ceased operations. Hughes was previously the defendant in a civil enforcement action by the MDE for similar violations at the same location in 2012.



“Operating unpermitted open dumps in the middle of residential neighborhoods is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. It endangers the environment, disrupts residents’ enjoyment of their communities, and threatens public health and safety,” said Attorney General Brown. “The permitting process for these facilities is in place for a reason – to protect communities.”

Attorney General Brown thanked the Environmental Crimes Unit, Chief Investigator Thomas Waugh, and Assistant Attorney General Kory H. Lemmert, for their hard work on this case, in addition to representatives from the Maryland Department of the Environment for their assistance and support.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2023/033123b.pdf>