

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE**

FROM THE OFFICE OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY DOUG JOHNSON

For immediate release – January 30, 2007

### **DRIVER OF OIL TRUCK CHARGED WITH UNLAWFUL DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Washington County Attorney Doug Johnson announced that his office has filed a criminal complaint charging David Paul Kohler (d.o.b. 8/16/73) with one count of Unlawful Disposal of Hazardous Waste, a felony offense which carries a maximum sentence of 5 years and/or \$50,000 fine.

The complaint alleges that on November 15, 2006, Kohler was driving an oil truck for his employer, Como Lube & Oil, when he decided to dump between 1300 and 1400 gallons of used oil in a drainage ditch at approximately the 12800 block of 50<sup>th</sup> Street South in the City of Afton in Washington County. A witness called the Washington County Sheriff's Office regarding the illegal dumping just before noon, reporting that a truck with the words "Como" and just dumped oil and left the site. Deputy Kowarsch responded to the scene and walked through the ditch where the oil had been dumped. He noted that the oil path was several feet wide and had spanned approximately 40 yards in length. After some investigation, Deputy Kowarsch contacted the Como Lube & Supplies company located in Hugo, Minnesota. "The company was cooperative in identifying the driver and responding to the scene to clean up the spill", said Johnson. Kohler also arrived at the spill and allegedly told Deputy Kowarsch that he had been picking up used motor and machine oil when he decided to dump the used oil on the side of the road to cut corners as he was running behind on his schedule, his tanker was getting full and he did not want to drive back to the City of Hugo to dump the oil and then return to pick up the rest of the orders. "Kohler's decision to cut corners in this way was stupid," Johnson said. "He could have caused major impact to the environment and he now faces criminal charges."

Any suspicious activity in progress involving dumping of oil or other hazardous waste should be reported immediately to 911. For information regarding proper disposal of these substances contact Washington County Public Health and Environment at 651-430-6655.

For further information, please contact Doug Johnson or Susan Harris at the Washington County Attorney's Office, 651-430-6115.