

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Board of Registration of

Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Professionals

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## HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE CLEANUP PROFESSIONAL SURRENDERS MASSACHUSETTS LICENSE TO STATE BOARD

BOSTON – Thomas Woodard, whose office is located in Kittery, Maine, has entered into a consent agreement with the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Professionals to resolve a disciplinary investigation. As part of the consent agreement, Mr. Woodard voluntarily surrendered his Massachusetts state license to practice as a Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Professional and agreed never to reapply for a license.

Mr. Woodard operated a beverage-container redemption facility in Maine. In August 2011, he was convicted by the state of Maine of stealing more than \$10,000 from Maine bottle manufacturers, distributors, and collection agents by obtaining refunds and handling fees for cans and bottles that Mr. Woodard knew were coming from outside the state. He is appealing his conviction by the state of Maine.

Before the Board concluded its investigation, Mr. Woodard agreed to enter into a consent agreement to resolve the matter without further investigation. Pursuant to this consent order, while he did not admit to any wrongdoing, Mr. Woodard agreed to surrender his license and not to reapply for a license.

Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Professionals, who are also known as "Licensed Site Professionals" or "LSPs," are licensed by the Board to oversee the assessment and cleanup of property in Massachusetts that has become contaminated with oil, gasoline, or other hazardous materials. Property owners and other parties, who are legally responsible for the cleanup of contamination, hire LSPs. In the course of doing their oversight work, LSPs and their clients must submit a variety of written reports to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). MassDEP and any member of the public may file a complaint with the Board alleging that an LSP did not meet state requirements or professional standards in conducting assessment and cleanup activities at contaminated sites. The Board's regulations also state that it shall constitute misconduct for an LSP to engage in conduct that results in a conviction for certain crimes, including those involving fraud or deceit. Robert Luhrs, a member of the Board, stated: "The Board's regulations require that an LSP display good moral character, as an indication that an LSP will comply with all applicable standards and regulations. This agreement protects the public and the environment and upholds the Board's professional conduct standards by removing this LSP from the profession."

Additional information about the Board can be found at the Board's web site at <u>http://www.mass.gov/lsp</u> or by calling the number listed above.

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