

**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 23, 2005**

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**WALLINGFORD CONCRETE COMPANY IS SENTENCED**

*Highway subcontractor agrees to pay \$500,000 for making false statements*

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that UNITED CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC. of Wallingford, Connecticut, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Stefan R. Underhill in Bridgeport. On May 16, 2005, UNITED CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC. waived indictment and pleaded guilty to a one-count Information charging the company with false statements. Judge Underhill today ordered UNITED CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC. to pay a fine in the amount of \$1000 and imposed no period of probation.

UNITED CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC. was subject to five years of probation and a fine of up to \$500,000. Prior to today's sentencing, the U.S. Attorney's Office and UNITED CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC. entered into a settlement agreement that satisfied the corporation's criminal and civil liabilities. UNITED CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC. agreed to pay \$500,000 to the Government, to be apportioned between the fine the Court imposed and payment to the United States Department of Transportation. As a result, the company will pay \$499,000 to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

According to statements made in court, in 2001, UNITED CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC. manufactured concrete drainage assemblies, such as catch basins, for several prime contractors, including *L.G. DeFelice, Inc.*, that performed work on the Bridgeport corridor of Interstate 95 under contracts with the Connecticut Department of Transportation ("Connecticut DOT"). Connecticut DOT specifications for the drainage assemblies included steel supporting rods imbedded in the concrete, and UNITED CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC. was required to certify, on Connecticut DOT form MAT-073 entitled "Certification of Precast Concrete Products," that the assemblies that it was providing conformed to Connecticut DOT's specifications. Because approximately 90 percent of the cost of the Bridgeport corridor construction was born by the United States Department of Transportation, the certifications were subject to review by it, as well as by Connecticut DOT.

On October 1, 2001, UNITED CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC. sent to *L.G. DeFelice* one shipment of several drainage assembly components accompanied by a signed MAT-073 certifying that the components conformed to Connecticut DOT specifications. In fact, those components did not conform to specifications because they lacked the reinforcing steel, a fact that was known to UNITED CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC. management at the time.

“This prosecution should serve as a wake-up call to all government contractors that receive federal funding,” U.S. Attorney O’Connor stated. “Perform the work and install the products required or you will be held accountable in federal court.”

U.S. Attorney O’Connor noted that, as a result of this prosecution, UNITED CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC. has made significant improvements to its quality control procedures.

U.S. Attorney O’Connor also stated that, according to Connecticut DOT, the nonconforming drainage assemblies do not present a safety hazard to the traveling public.

This case was investigated by the United States Department of Transportation, Office of the Inspector General. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys William A. Collier and Calvin B. Kurimai.

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