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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

### **Penalty Issued: Mishandling Used Oil Costs Car Dealership Substantial Fine**

A car dealership was recently fined nearly \$45,000 by the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) after a site inspection and record review revealed the dealer had been improperly disposing of/handling used oil. EPA’s Compliance and Enforcement Director in Seattle stated that, “Properly managing used oil is absolutely critical to protecting the community and the environment. Companies handling used oil must comply with the law or face penalties.”

Louisiana has numerous regulations involving used oil, and many car dealerships and mechanics shops often overlook the potential pitfalls due to used oil’s common-place nature in their business. If you routinely encounter or produce used oil in your business activities, you should brush-up on the appropriate regulations to help avoid compliance issues. In general, used oil cannot be:

- ✍ Collected or stored in a way that will endanger the public health or welfare,
- ✍ Discharged into sewers, drainage systems, septic tanks, groundwater or other waters,
- ✍ Commingled with solid waste and disposed of in a landfill, or
- ✍ Used for road oiling, dust control, weed abatement, or other similar uses which result in the oil being released into the environment.

### **Enforcement Alert: Potential Inspections Coming For Underground Storage Tanks**

Underground Storage Tanks (“USTs”) are a part of many businesses in Louisiana. With the passage of the Energy Policy Act in 2005, UST inspection requirements were effected, and as a result, USTs that have not been inspected by the State since December 1998 may get an inspection visit this summer. Some of the items that will likely be reviewed for compliance could include:

- ✍ Spill prevention,
- ✍ Release detection, and
- ✍ Notification requirements



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