

Department of Justice



United States Attorney Conner Eldridge
Western District of Arkansas

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CONTACT: DEBORAH GROOM
PHONE: (479)783-5125
FAX: (479)441-0569

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Texarkana, Arkansas - **JOE H. BALL, II**, age 66 of Hot Springs, Arkansas, was sentenced today to 12 months imprisonment with 6 months to be served in prison and 6 months to be served under home confinement on federal mail fraud charges, announced United States Attorney Conner Eldridge. United States District Court Judge Harry F. Barnes imposed the sentence in Texarkana, and ordered Ball to pay \$757,957.77 in restitution to Upper Southwest Regional Solid Waste Management District. Ball previously paid this amount of money into the registry of the court as restitution along with accrued interest. Ball was also ordered to serve two years of supervised release which will commence upon the completion of his prison sentence and to pay a special assessment in the amount of \$300.00

On May 13, 2010, Ball waived grand jury indictment and entered a guilty plea to a three count Information charging him with Mail Fraud in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1341. According to documents filed in the case, Ball served from March 1991 through December 31, 2008, as the Director of the Upper Southwest Arkansas Regional Solid Waste Management District (District) located in Nashville, Arkansas. Ball continued his employment with the District until approximately July 23, 2009. The District is responsible for the collection, management and disposal of solid waste, landfill, and recycling facilities in a nine county area in Southwest Arkansas, and is funded, in part, through public funds administered through the State of Arkansas.

Court documents go on to state that during his time as Director, until termination of his employment in June 2009, Ball fraudulently caused numerous checks to be issued to a fictitious corporation known as Secondary Sources & Recycling (SSR) for non-legitimate "consultant fees." Ball then caused the checks to be endorsed and deposited into a personal bank account belonging to him, where he later converted funds to his personal use. Ball caused bank statements and correspondence from the bank about this account to be sent to him, doing business as SSR Consulting, through the mail to a post office box in Bonnerdale, Arkansas. The scheme to defraud caused a loss to the Upper Southwest Arkansas Regional Solid Waste Management District in the amount of \$756,300.00.

This case was investigated by the Arkansas State Police, the Arkansas Division of Legislative Audit and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Wendy Johnson prosecuted the case for the United States.

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