

EPA catches fifth fugitive since launching “Most Wanted” list. Defendant is sentenced to 87 months in prison for asbestos training scheme.

20. September 2011 By Jeanne Long

On September 13, 2011, Albania Deleon was sentenced to 87 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. Deleon was convicted of a variety of crimes related to operating an asbestos training scam, and she fled the United States after her federal sentencing hearing in November 2008. Nineteen months after she absconded, she was captured in the Dominican Republic and later extradited to the United States.

From approximately 2001 to 2006, Deleon owned and operated Environmental Compliance Training (ECT), a certified asbestos training school located in Methuen, Massachusetts. ECT offered training courses on a weekly basis to train individuals in how to handle and remove asbestos. However, many of the recipients of the certificates of completion never took the required training course. Many of these individuals then filed the certificates with the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety in order to be authorized to work in the asbestos removal industry. At trial, the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety introduced evidence showing that ECT issued training certificates to over 2,000 untrained individuals.

In addition to operating ECT, Deleon also owned a temporary staffing agency. Deleon hired many of the individuals who had “completed” the asbestos removal training course and sent them to do dangerous asbestos demolition. She also paid them under the table so she would not have to pay taxes or obtain workers’ compensation insurance for them.

In December 2008, the EPA launched a fugitive website, and Deleon is the fifth environmental criminal captured since the website’s inception. United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, Carmen M. Ortiz, said that she hopes “this sentence sends a strong message to anyone who might contemplate fleeing to avoid punishment that we do not give up on fugitives and we will take all necessary means and resources to apprehend and prosecute them.” The complete list of current environmental fugitives can be found on the EPA’s website and is available [here](#).