NEWS RELEASE From New York State Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General

Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 26, 2019 Contact John Milgrim: 518-474-1010

CONTRACTOR CHARGED WITH FELONY WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD ON FORMER FULTON NESTLE PLANT ASBESTOS DEMOLITION WORK

ALBANY – New York State Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of the owner of a Fulton-based demolition and asbestos abatement company on charges he failed to provide required insurance for his employees working to demolish the former Nestle plant in early 2017, and stole insurance premiums for another asbestos job by only paying for coverage meant for far less hazardous work.

Mark R. Lindsley, 40, of Fulton, the owner of Infinity Enterprises, was arrested on the charges of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and the Workers Compensation crime of Failure to Secure Compensation, both felonies.

An investigation by Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General Leahy Scott found that from January through April 2017, Lindsley had more than five employees working on an asbestos and demolition project at the former Nestle plant site in Fulton but never provided Workers' Compensation coverage for any of them, as required by law. Separately, from March to September 2014, Lindsley obtained Workers' Compensation coverage for employees while also falsely claiming to his insurance carrier that his company did lawn care and snow removal, enabling him to avoid more than \$1,000 in extra premiums he would have had to pay for asbestos removal coverage.

"This defendant's fraud and brazen greed left his business's employees vulnerable in a hazardous work environment and gave him a criminally unfair advantage over honest competitors," said Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General Leahy Scott. "The New York State's Workers' Compensation system is a critical protection for hard-working New Yorkers, and I thank my law enforcement partners for their commitment to pursuing anyone who abuses it."

Lindsley was released pending further court action.

Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest and Oswego County District Attorney Gregory S. Oakes and his office for prosecuting this matter.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

The New York State Office of the Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse and/or illegal acts against the New York State Workers' Compensation system, including fraud by medical service providers, employers seeking to evade appropriate Workers' Compensation charges, and employees who fabricate injuries to fraudulently receive system benefits. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form at http://www.ig.ny.gov or sending an email to: inspector.general@ig.ny.gov. You also can write to our office at: Office of the Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor, Albany, New York 12223