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## Environmental Criminal Enforcement/Alleged Water Samples Falsification: U.S. EPA Office of Inspector General Announces Tumwater, Washington, Water Treatment Company Owner Guilty Plea

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The United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) Office of Inspector General (“OIG”) issued a June 16th news release stating that Clearwater Utility Services of Tumwater, Washington, and its owner pleaded guilty to their alleged roles in defrauding state regulators and customers.

The activities are alleged to have involved the submittal of false water samples from a public water system to a laboratory for lead and copper testing.

Clearwater Utility Services (“Clearwater”) is stated to have been charged with a felony count of offering false instrument for filing or record. OIG also states that owner Timothy Tayne (“Tayne”) was charged with one count of attempted offering false instrument for filing or record.

Clearwater was assessed a \$5,000 fine while Tayne was sentenced to 364 days imprisonment and 80 hours of community service.

A copy of the news release can be downloaded [here](#).