

## Owner, manager of water testing lab charged with fraudulent reporting

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Reading Eagle

The owner and the manager of a now-defunct Amity Township water testing laboratory have been charged with submitting fraudulent laboratory reports that generated more than \$135,000 for the company, state officials said Thursday.

Michael McKenna, owner and technical director of Blue Marsh Laboratories, and Debbie Wanner, manager, are accused of providing more than 300 fraudulent certificates of analysis to customers between 2005 and 2008. The company had operated at 1605 Ben Franklin Highway.

Wanner, 44, of the 1400 block of Kenhorst Boulevard turned herself in Wednesday at the office of District Judge Victor M. Frederick IV in Oley Township. She was accompanied by her attorney, David R. Dautrich, and remained free following arraignment.

Authorities said they expected McKenna also would turn himself in Wednesday at Frederick's office, but he did not.

A statewide investigative grand jury recommended the charges following the investigation by the attorney general's Environmental Crimes Section. Arrest warrants were issued Wednesday.

The grand jury found that McKenna or Wanner told employees to fabricate analytical data to appease their customers.

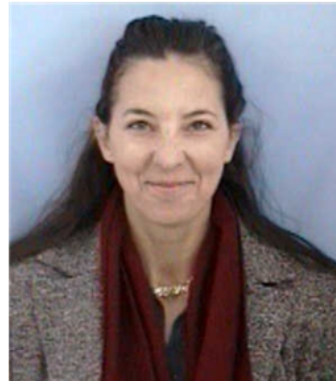
Attorney General Tom Corbett said many of the company's customers had permits issued by the state Department of Environmental Protection or the Environmental Protection Agency that required their drinking water or wastewater be tested for contaminants.

The DEP assisted in the investigation.

"Just as if a mechanic were to put an emissions sticker on a car regardless of the test outcome, Blue Marsh was not helping these clients protect the environment," Corbett said. "But, this is not only an environmental issue; Blue Marsh's clients were paying for a service that they allegedly never received."

McKenna is charged with 55 counts each of deceptive or fraudulent business practices, theft by deception, unlawful conduct, and receiving stolen property; four counts of conspiracy; and one count of participating in a corrupt organization.

Wanner is charged with 55 counts of unlawful conduct, four counts of conspiracy and one count of participating in a corrupt organization.



**Michael McKenna**