



Company fined over asbestos handling

A company that converted apartments into condominiums was convicted Monday of violating the Clean Air Act by improperly handling asbestos materials, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a release.

During the demolition and renovation of Pine Crest Village in Victoria Park, Tarragon Management Inc., its managing director Richard Schaffer, project manager Robert Violino and the construction manager, Benco Development Inc., ignored numerous warnings and environmental assessments, prosecutors said.

U.S. District Judge James I. Cohn sentenced TMI to five years probation and ordered the company to pay a \$500,000 criminal fine and to give \$500,000 in community service to the Florida Environmental Task Force Trust Fund, prosecutors said.

Schaffer, Violino and Benco Development previously pleaded guilty to violating the Clean Air Act, prosecutors said.

Schaffer will be sentenced in August. The others were ordered to pay a \$25,000 criminal fee and complete a 40-hour training course.

Benco must give \$25,000 in community service to the environmental trust fund and Violino has to serve two years probation with six months home detention, prosecutors said.