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Dawson Man Charged with Violating Clean Water Act

(KNZA)--A Dawson, Nebraska man has been charged with two counts of violating the Clean Water Act.

U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom says 37-year-old Rodney Heinen was recently indicted on the charges

Grissom says one count is alleged to have occurred starting in January 2012 and the other count is alleged to have occurred starting in April of this year in Jackson County, Kansas.

In the first count, Heinen is alleged to have introduced earthen fill and wood debris into a stream flowing through 160 acres of agricultural property he owned.

The indictment alleges the stream was covered by the Clean Water Act and subject to the supervision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Natural Resources Conversation Service and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The second count alleges that in April of this year Heinen purchased more than 72 acres of agricultural land in Jackson County. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers later found dredge and fill material placed in two streams on the property.

If convicted, Heinen faces a maximum penalty of three years in federal prison and a fine up to \$50,000 per day of violation. The Environmental Protection Agency investigated. Assistant U.S. Attorney Rich Hathaway is prosecuting.

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