

# Probe targets praised foundry

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At least two truckloads of sand from an East Oakland foundry praised for its environmental record were contaminated with unsafe levels of lead when inspected by police at a Livermore landfill, court documents show.

According to documents on file in Oakland Municipal Court, American Brass & Iron Foundry — which Vice President Al Gore praised during a 1992 presidential campaign visit as a model of environmental responsibility — is under investigation for at least three felony crimes related to illegal dumping of toxic sand.

The charges include knowingly disposing or causing the disposal of hazardous waste, knowingly transporting or causing the transportation of hazardous waste to a facility that does not have the proper permits, and knowingly storing or causing the storage of hazardous waste in an improper manner, the documents state.

Allan Boscacci, the company's president, denied the charges and called the police department's criminal investigation "ridiculous."

"We're not doing anything intentionally or willfully. We're trying to do what we think is right," Boscacci said Monday.

Boscacci's 88-year-old pipe-making company was raided Friday by about 15 investigators from the Oakland Police Department, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office and the state

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**Allan Boscacci,**  
company president  
*denying charges of dumping waste*

## Probe: Toxic sand suspected

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When police told landfill manager Ken Etherington that the sand was possibly contaminated with lead, Etherington replied that the sand had been coming to the landfill "for years" and he handled it "like regular garbage," according to the documents.

Laboratory tests of sand taken from the trucks showed it contained levels of lead high enough to make it a hazardous waste, the documents say.

The company, a leading manufacturer of cast iron pipes, uses tons of sand to manufacture its pipe fittings and other iron products. Molds for the pipes are made out of sand, which is then cleansed of heavy metals and hydrocarbons before it is recycled or carted off to an area landfill, company officials said.

In September, Gore singled out the foundry as an example of an American company that complies with environmental regulations without putting employees out of work — a key theme of Gore's election campaign.