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UPDATE 1-Ex-Enron attorney, accountant settle SEC charges

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(Adds details of charges, Coyote Springs 2 project)

WASHINGTON, March 27 (Reuters) - A former attorney and a former accountant at Enron Corp. settled civil fraud charges for their roles in manipulating the disgraced company's earnings in 2000, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission said on Monday.

Dale Rasmussen, who once worked as an attorney for Enron in Portland, Oregon, and David Leboe, a former Enron accountant in Texas, will each pay \$30,001 for their roles in the fraudulent accounting surrounding the "Coyote Springs 2" power plant project, according to the SEC.

The Coyote Springs 2 project involved the sale of a power plant development project in Oregon, regulators said. Accounting rules call for revenues from such a project to be recognized over time as the project is completed.

Leboe, Rasmussen and others instead recognized an immediate gain based on price of the turbine generator that was to be installed at the Coyote Springs 2 power plant, the SEC said.

Last year, former Enron Vice President Christopher Calger pleaded guilty to federal charges of improperly recognizing revenue in the same deal. Calger admitted that he took part in a scheme to improperly book earnings from the deal.

Enron often used such schemes to boost its earnings in order to meet the aggressive growth target it had promised investors.

Former Enron Chief Executive Ken Lay and former CEO Jeffrey Skilling are on trial for conspiracy and fraud linked to the collapse of Enron in 2001. The trial began in late January.

Both men have denied any wrongdoing at Enron. They could face decades in jail if found guilty.

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