

News Release Communiqué



Ministry of the
Environment

Ministère de
l'Environnement

**For Immediate Release
January 13, 2006**

UBA INC. FINED \$100,000 TODAY FOR AN OFFENCE THAT AFFECTED LOCAL RESIDENTS AND GO TRANSIT RUSH HOUR SERVICE IN MAY 2004

MISSISSAUGA — UBA Inc. was fined \$100,000 today, plus an additional 25 per cent victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to discharging a contaminant into the natural environment that caused adverse effects, including: the evacuation of a neighbouring school, park, community centre and significant disruption to transportation services, contrary to the Environmental Protection Act (EPA).

UBA Inc. owns and operates a chemical manufacturing and distribution facility located at 2605 Royal Windsor Drive in Mississauga.

The Court heard that on May 13, 2004, a UBA Inc. employee was involved in the manufacture of a product used to clean pipes in dairy farms. That employee added two acids to an empty UBA tanker truck. The addition of the two acids without the presence of water resulted in a chemical reaction inside the tanker truck. The heat of the reaction produced an orange/red cloud of oxides of nitrogen gas that escaped through an open hatch. The company immediately contacted 911 and also ordered the evacuation of its facility.

The Mississauga Fire Department, including Hazardous Material Officials, attended at the site shortly after 3:00 p.m. and observed that a continuous release of the orange/red cloud from the tanker truck was migrating off-site. Peel Regional Police and the Ministry of the Environment also attended the incident.

The fire department ordered the evacuation of the surrounding area, including: Clarkson Park, Clarkson Secondary School, Clarkson Community Pool and the Mini Skool. Local residents were ordered to stay inside their homes with their doors and windows closed and GO Transit's Lakeshore West Train line had to be sealed off to railway traffic affecting some 23,000 rush hour commuters.

At 9:00 p.m., firefighters, and a private emergency response unit, hired by UBA Inc., were able to cease the discharge and the evacuation order was lifted.

The Ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch laid charges following an investigation. UBA Inc. pleaded guilty to discharging a contaminant, namely smoke and oxides of nitrogen, into the natural environment causing an adverse effect, contrary to section 14(1) of the EPA.

Justice of the Peace Laurie K. Pallett heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice in Mississauga, Ontario, on January 13, 2006.

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