

News Release Communiqué



Ministry of the
Environment

Ministère de
l'Environnement

For Immediate Release
March 13, 2006

POULTRY OPERATION FINED \$50,000

CAYUGA: Riverview Poultry Limited has been fined a total of \$50,000, plus a victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to four charges under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA).

The Court was told that Riverview Poultry operates a processing plant at 1560 Kohler Road in the County of Haldimand. The company slaughters between 15,000 and 23,000 birds a day three or four days a week.

On March 30, 2004 two provincial officers from the Ministry of the Environment went to the plant to look into a complaint from a neighbouring farmer that wastewater from the operation was flowing onto the farm. The officers found wastewater spilling from a sewage lagoon. They also found a second spill of raw process water containing blood and fat coming from a wastewater tank.

The Court was told that the farmer had to delay planting for two weeks because of the spills. Riverview hired a company to clean up both spills.

Later, a provincial officer inspected the operation and found that Riverview was not complying with several conditions of a Certificate of Approval (C of A) issued by MOE.

Riverview was charged following an investigation by MOE's Investigation and Enforcement Branch and pleaded guilty to four charges under the EPA:

- One charge of permitting the discharge of wastewater into the natural environment which is likely to cause an adverse effect contrary to Section 14(1) of the *EPA*.
- One charge of failing to comply with a C of A condition to prepare a required operations manual contrary to Section 186(3) of the *EPA*; and
- Two charges of failing to comply with C of A conditions to retain monitoring records and information for a minimum of two years contrary to Section 186(3) of the *EPA*.

In addition, the owner and operator of the plant, John Georgakakos, pleaded guilty to one charge and received a suspended sentence.

Court was told that Riverview has spent more than \$890,000 implementing an environmental management policy, assessing the existing lagoon berms, developing a groundwater monitoring system, conducting additional sampling and other work.

The Court took this spending to correct deficiencies into account in setting fines. Riverview was fined \$35,000 on the charge of permitting a discharge and \$5,000 each on the charges of failing to comply with its C of A conditions.

Justice of the Peace Cathy Woron heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice in Cayuga, Ontario, on March 6, 2006.

Contacts:
Mark Rabbior
Communications Branch
(416) 314-6084
Disponible en français

www.ene.gov.on.ca