

# News Release Communiqué



Ministry of the  
Environment

Ministère de  
l'Environnement

**For Immediate Release  
June 1, 2006**

## **STURGEON TIMBER LTD FINED \$25,000 FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT**

**THUNDER BAY** — Sturgeon Timber Limited has been fined a total of \$25,000, plus a victim fine surcharge (VFS), after pleading guilty to two counts under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA).

Sturgeon Timber Limited produces wood chips for paper mills. The company also processes waste material from the chipping operation and transports it for use off site as fuel.

In October 2004, the equipment used to process the waste wood broke down, resulting in wood waste accumulation and stockpiling at the site.

The Court heard that around January 11, 2005, a fire started in the waste wood pile as a result of spontaneous combustion which generated smoke that traveled off site. Local residents complained to the Ministry of the Environment about smoke in the area. Environmental Officers responded and confirmed the information.

Following an investigation by the Ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch, charges were laid.

Sturgeon Timber Ltd. pleaded guilty to operating a waste disposal site without a Certificate of Approval contrary to Section 27(1) (b) of the EPA and was fined \$7,000, and to discharging a contaminant into the natural environment that caused an adverse effect contrary to Section 14(1) of the EPA and was fined \$18,000, for total fines of \$25,000, plus VFS.

Justice of the Peace Bruce Leaman heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice in Thunder Bay, Ontario, on April 28, 2006.

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