

MAXXAM ANALYTICS INC. FINED TOTAL OF \$54,000 FOR FAILURES TO REPORT ADVERSE DRINKING WATER QUALITY RESULTS

LONDON—Maxxam Analytics Inc. was fined a total of \$54,000 today, after pleading guilty to four violations of section 140(1) of the *Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)*.

Maxxam Analytics is an accredited, licensed laboratory that analyzes drinking water samples for the presence and levels of various chemicals. At the time of the offences, Maxxam was analyzing drinking water samples for the operating authorities for the Strathroy and North Middlesex water distribution systems.

The Court heard that in January 2005, the ministry was advised of two adverse water quality results for nitrates for the Strathroy system that were documented in Maxxam's 2004 Annual Analysis Report and confirmed in December 2004. The adverse results had not been reported to the ministry, the local Medical Officer of Health and the system's operating authority, as required.

The Court also heard that in March 2005, during an annual ministry inspection of the North Middlesex system, a provincial officer discovered that an adverse water quality result for lead that had been confirmed in December 2004 had not been reported by Maxxam to the ministry, the local Medical Officer of Health and the system's operating authority, as required.

Charges were laid against Maxxam following investigations by the ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch. Maxxam pled guilty to:

- One count of failing to report adverse nitrate results to the ministry and the local Medical officer of health;
- One count of failing to report adverse nitrate results to a water distribution system's operating authority;
- One count of failing to report an adverse water quality result for lead to the ministry and the local Medical Officer of Health; and
- One count of failing to report an adverse water quality result for lead to a water distribution system's operating authority.

All violations were under section 140(1) of the *SDWA*. Maxxam was fined \$14,000 for each of the first three counts, and \$12,000 for the fourth count. All fines are exclusive of the victim fine surcharge. Justice of the Peace Calvin Hurst sentenced Maxxam on June 5, 2006 in the Ontario Court of Justice in London.

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