

06-109

For Immediate Release
October 24, 2006

DYNATEC CORPORATION FINED \$100,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION

BELLEVILLE, Ont. – Dynatec Corporation, a Toronto-based mining company which owns and operates Canada Talc, a hard rock underground mine in Madoc, Ont., was fined \$100,000 today for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in serious injuries to an employee.

On September 16, 2004, a miner was on a ramp trying to single-handedly hold back a moving “scoop tram” (an underground vehicle that transports rock) to prevent it from hitting two other miners in its anticipated pathway when the first miner’s right foot became pinned underneath the tram’s bucket. The tram continued moving down the ramp dragging the first miner with it. It eventually came to a stop in a flattened out area, close to where the other two miners were working. The first miner suffered multiple fractures to the right leg and a crushed ankle. The other two miners were uninjured. All three miners were employed by Dynatec Corporation. The incident occurred at the Canada Talc mine in Madoc, about 30 kilometres (19 miles) north of Belleville.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found just prior to the incident the first miner had parked the tram up-ramp from where the other two miners were working. The first miner had positioned the tram with the bucket facing down the ramp and turned towards a wall. The brakes had been applied and the tram was turned off, but it began to roll down the ramp after the first miner dismounted the tram and began walking down the ramp towards the other miners. The first miner shouted a warning to the other two miners, but the shout could not be heard.

Dynatec Corporation pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure wheel chocks were used to block the tram’s movement when it was left unattended, as required by Section 107(2) of the Regulations for Mines and Mining Plants. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace Marilyn Robbins of the Ontario Court of Justice in Belleville. In addition, the court imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

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Court Information at a Glance

Location: Ontario Court of Justice
235 Pinnacle Street, Courtroom 302
Belleville, Ontario

Judge: Justice of the Peace Marilyn Robbins

Date / Time: October 24, 2006, 10 a.m.

Defendant: Dynatec Corporation
operating as
Canada Talc

Matter: Occupational Health & Safety

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