

06-27

For Immediate Release
February 28, 2006

MARATHON PULP INC. FINED \$65,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION

THUNDER BAY, Ont. – Marathon Pulp Inc., a company that operates a pulp and paper mill in Marathon, Ont., was fined \$65,000 on February 24, 2006 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in an arm injury to an employee.

On November 16, 2004, a worker was operating a “pulp-drying machine” (a machine that dries paper) when the worker’s left arm became entangled in the dryer and was fractured. At the time of the incident the worker was manually threading paper from one level of the dryer to another. The injury occurred when the worker reached in to grab the paper’s leading edge while the dryer was operating. A Ministry of Labour investigation found there was no guard or other device to prevent access to a pinch point in the dryer. The incident occurred at the company’s mill at 1 Mill Road in Marathon.

Marathon Pulp Inc. pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure the pulp-drying machine was equipped with and guarded by a guard or other device that prevented access to the pinch points, as required by Section 25 of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace Bruce Leaman of the Ontario Court of Justice in Thunder Bay. 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.

-30-

Contacts:

Belinda Sutton
Ministry of Labour
416-326-7405

Jeremy Warning
Crown Counsel
Legal Services Branch
Ministry of Labour
416-326-7970

Court Information at a Glance

Location: Ontario Court of Justice
110 North Archibald Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario

Judge: Justice of the Peace Bruce Leaman

Date / Time: February 24, 2006, 1:30 p.m.

Defendant: Marathon Pulp Inc.

Matter: Occupational Health & Safety

Disponible en français

www.labour.gov.on.ca