

For Immediate Release
February 13, 2006

COLUMBIA FOREST PRODUCTS LTD. HAS BEEN FINED \$10,000 FOR VIOLATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

HEARST —Columbia Forest Products Ltd. has been fined \$10,000 after pleading guilty to permitting the discharge of a contaminant into the natural environment, contrary to the Environmental Protection Act (EPA).

Columbia Forest Products operates an integrated hardwood plywood plant, located at 225 Prince Street in Hearst, Ontario.

The Court heard that on March 30, 2004, the Ministry of the Environment received a complaint of sawdust from a local resident. On April 1, 2004, a provincial officer attended at the complainant's home, located just north of the Columbia site, and observed sawdust in her house and on the exterior of her property. The officer also observed large piles of sawdust outdoors at the Columbia site. The complainant was concerned that the sawdust prevented her from enjoying her property and affected her eyes when it was windy. She indicated that it was an ongoing problem.

The ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch laid charges following an investigation.

Columbia Forest Products Ltd. pleaded guilty to one count of discharging a contaminant into the natural environment, which may cause an adverse effect, contrary to Section 14(1) of the EPA, and was fined \$10,000 plus a victim fine surcharge.

Justice of the Peace Joseph J. Oreskovich heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice in Hearst, Ontario, on November 22, 2005.

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