

For Immediate Release
June 8, 2006

THE CORPORATION OF THE SEPARATED TOWN OF SMITHS FALLS FINED TOTAL OF \$17,500 FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

PERTH—The Corporation of the Separated Town of Smiths Falls has been fined a total of \$17,500, plus a victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to committing two offences pertaining to its water treatment plant.

The Corporation of the Separated Town of Smiths Falls owns and operates the town's water treatment plant, located at 25 Old Mill Road. The ministry conducts routine inspections of such plants to ensure that they comply with regulatory requirements and deliver safe drinking water to the public.

The Court heard that a routine ministry inspection of the Smiths Falls plant conducted in October 2003 revealed 40 incidents of operational changes and adjustments made to the treatment process by non-certified employees.

The inspection also revealed that on 28 occasions over approximately seven months, the requisite daily testing for chlorine residual in the water distribution system had not been performed.

Following an investigation conducted by the ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch, these charges were laid against the Corporation:

- One count of failing to ensure that adjustments to the water treatment equipment were carried out by certified operators; and
- One count of failing to ensure that daily tests for chlorine residual were being performed.

Both offences were violations of section 140(3) of the *Safe Drinking Water Act*. The Corporation pleaded guilty to each count, and was fined \$7,500 and \$10,000 for each offence respectively.

Justice of the Peace Gerald Bartraw sentenced the Corporation on June 6, 2006 in the Ontario Court of Justice in Perth.

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