

For Immediate Release  
June 12, 2006

## **CORPORATION OF TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS AND ONTARIO CLEAN WATER AGENCY FINED TOTAL OF \$8,000 FOR VIOLATION OF THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT**

**THUNDER BAY** — The Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls and the Ontario Clean Water Agency have been fined a total of \$8,000, plus a victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

The Court was told that the Corporation owns the drinking water system that serves the community of Ear Falls, Ontario and OCWA operates the system. The court heard that in August 2003, a routine Ministry of the Environment inspection of the drinking water system revealed violations of the Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA) and the SDWA.

Following an investigation by the ministry's Investigation and Enforcement Branch, the Corporation was charged with one count under the SDWA for failing to report a turbidity exceedance. Turbidity is a cloudiness of water which may impede water treatment.

The Corporation pleaded guilty to failing to report a turbidity exceedance, contrary to Section 18(2) of the SDWA and was fined \$3,000, plus a victim fine surcharge. The other two charges were withdrawn.

OCWA pleaded guilty to, one count of failing to analyze treated water samples for a required parameter, contrary to Section 140(3) of the SDWA and was fined \$5,000, plus a victim fine surcharge.

Justice of the Peace Ronald J. Beck heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice in Thunder Bay, Ontario, on November 25 and December 9, 2005.

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