

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ADJALA-TOSORONTIO FINED TOTAL OF \$12,000 FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT VIOLATIONS

BARRIE—The Corporation of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio has been fined a total of \$12,000, plus a victim fine surcharge, for violations pertaining to two of its water treatment plants.

The Corporation of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio owns and operates a number of water treatment plants in the County of Simcoe, including the Lisle and the Loretta Heights plants. Both plants are not staffed and are therefore required to have continuous monitoring equipment that sounds a remote alarm that notifies a qualified operator in the event of an equipment malfunction.

The Court was told that ministry inspections of the two plants and of the township's municipal office revealed occasions on which low levels of chlorine residuals were recorded, but remote alarms were not sounded. Specifically, records showed low levels for a period of approximately 13 hours at the Lisle plant in January 2004, and a period of approximately 10 hours at the Loretta Heights plant in March 2004. Chlorine residuals must meet or exceed the legally required concentration to ensure that the drinking water is free of bacterial contamination.

Following an investigation conducted by the ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch, charges were laid.

The Corporation pleaded guilty to two counts—one for each treatment plant—of failing to ensure the continuous monitoring equipment would trigger remote alarm notification in the event of an equipment malfunction, contrary to section 140(3) of the *Safe Drinking Water Act*. The Corporation was fined \$6,000 for each count.

The plants' continuous monitoring equipment were wired to allow for remote alarm notification in October 2004.

Justice of the Peace Peter Wilson sentenced the defendant on Friday June 23, 2006 in the Ontario Court of Justice in Barrie.

- 30 -

Contacts:
John Steele
Communications Branch
(416) 314-6666

Disponible en français