

## CASCO INC. FINED TOTAL OF \$10,000 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT VIOLATIONS

**BROCKVILLE**—Casco Inc. has been fined a total of \$10,000, plus a victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to violations pertaining to the discharge of a contaminant.

Casco Inc. manufactures corn starch at its plant on James Street in the Township of Edwardsburg/Cardinal. The Court heard that on February 26, 2004, one of the plant operators discovered that an explosion door on one of the starch drying cyclones had come open slightly, allowing starch to be discharged to the roof of the facility.

The operator notified the plant coordinator of the leak, but the coordinator did not advise him to shut down the process. Approximately one hour later, the operator saw that the cyclone was still leaking, and he contacted the coordinator a second time. Approximately three hours after initially being notified of the leak, the coordinator told the operator that a mechanic had been called.

Shortly thereafter, a second operator, who had seen that nearby roads and vehicles were covered in starch, immediately shut down the process, and stopped the discharge. The starch had also covered nearby homes.

Casco Inc. did not report this discharge to the ministry, as is required under the *Environmental Protection Act (EPA)*. Following an investigation conducted by the ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch, charges were laid.

Casco Inc. pleaded guilty to:

- one count of permitting the discharge of a contaminant into the natural environment that caused an adverse effect, contrary to section 14(1) of the *EPA*; and
- one count of failing to notify the ministry of a spill, contrary to section 92(1) of the *EPA*.

Casco Inc. was fined \$7,500 for the first count and \$2,500 for the second count.

Justice of the Peace Ray Switzer sentenced the defendant on June 7, 2006 in the Ontario Court of Justice in Brockville.

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