



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Oct. 28, 2005

The Editor
Abbotsford News

Editor:

I would like to update your readers on the status of the clean-up of the Canada Petroleum Corp. site.

As of Sept. 24, all hazardous materials have been removed from the site.

Our clean-up of the property began Aug. 22. A few days later, when we became aware that several containers of mislabelled and highly explosive waste was being stored there, I signed a Declaration of Environmental Emergency under the Environmental Management Act. The declaration allowed us to access the necessary resources to immediately respond to a dangerous situation. While final clean-up costs are not yet known, it may approach or even exceed \$1 million.

The ministry took action in the interests of public health and safety. I have asked ministry staff to look to recover clean-up costs from the responsible parties.

Even though the clean-up has been completed and CPC pleaded guilty to two counts in June, this case is still a priority for my ministry. Conservation officers and environmental protection staff continue to investigate and there is the possibility that further charges may be laid in this case.

While B.C.'s waste management system is effective, we are always looking at ways to improve how we operate. In fact, I have asked staff to expedite the current review of the Hazardous Waste Regulation, including the adequacy of the security provisions to cover clean-up, should it be required.

Sincerely,

Barry Penner
Minister of Environment