

For Immediate Release
February 13, 2008

NORTHERN BREWERIES LTD. FINED \$100,000 FOR AMMONIA DISCHARGE

SUDBURY – Northern Breweries Ltd. has been fined \$100,000, plus victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to violating the Environmental Protection Act.

Northern Breweries Ltd. operated the Lorne Street Brewery at 185 Lorne Street in Sudbury. In June 2006, brewery staff were laid off and the company proceeded with a shut down of that facility. The Lorne Street Brewery contained refrigeration equipment that was comprised of an ammonia system. At the end of June 2006, the manager of the brewery turned off the electricity to the ammonia system.

The Court heard that on the afternoon of August 3, 2006, the Sudbury Police, Sudbury Fire Department and the Ministry of the Environment responded to a discharge of ammonia from the Lorne Street Brewery. During that afternoon, the fire department detected extremely high levels of ammonia and the fire chief decided to evacuate the immediate area. Early that evening, ammonia could be heard leaking from a window in the facility. Ammonia levels inside the building were too high to access the area to attempt to isolate the leak. The site was vented until the morning of August 4, 2006, when ammonia levels were low enough to allow access to the building.

Northern Breweries Ltd. was charged following an investigation by the Ministry of the Environment's Investigations and Enforcement Branch.

Northern Breweries Ltd. pleaded guilty to one count of violating section 14(1) of the Environmental Protection Act by causing or permitting the discharge of a contaminant which caused an adverse effect. The company was fined \$100,000, plus victim fine surcharge, and given six months to pay.

Justice of the Peace Ruby Beck heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice in Sudbury, Ontario, and imposed sentence on February 12, 2008.

- 30 -

For further information:

Members of the media:

John Steele
Communications Branch

(416) 314-6666

www.ene.gov.on.ca