

Court Bulletin Nouvelles judiciaires



Ministry of the
Environment

Ministère de
l'Environnement

For Immediate Release
December 4, 2008

TERRATEC ENVIRONMENTAL LTD. FINED A TOTAL OF \$300,000 FOR BIOSOLIDS SPILLS

HAMILTON, CAYUGA AND WELLAND – Terratec Environmental Ltd. has been fined a total of \$300,000 plus a victim fine surcharge, in conjunction with three recent court decisions related to biosolid spills in 2006.

On November 24, 2008, the company was fined \$100,000 for causing or permitting the discharge of a contaminant, namely biosolids, into the natural environment that caused or may have caused an adverse effect for a spill that occurred in Hamilton. On December 1, 2008, it was fined \$100,000 for a spill of biosolids that occurred in Cayuga and \$100,000 for a spill of biosolids that occurred in Welland. All fines are exclusive of the 25% Victim Fine Surcharge.

Terratec hauls biosolids from various wastewater pollution control plants throughout Ontario.

On August 24, 2006, a truck contracted by the company to transport biosolids headed towards Haldimand County. As the truck was traveling south on Centennial Parkway, near Hamilton, the driver applied the brakes suddenly, resulting in approximately 500 to 1000lbs of biosolids spilling onto the road. Multiple commuter vehicles drove through the odorous biosolids and the road was closed for several hours for clean-up.

Also on August 24, 2006, another truck contracted by the company was headed south on Halidmand Road 53, near Cayuga, when the driver applied the brakes suddenly, resulting in approximately 500 to 1000 lbs of biosolids spilling onto the road. A few minutes later, a driver was driving northbound on the road, when her vehicle entered the spill, causing her to lose control of the vehicle.

On September 11, 2006, a truck owned by the company was traveling southbound on Moyer Road in Welland, when the driver applied the brakes suddenly, resulting in 1 to 3 tonnes of biosolids spilling onto the road. Residents near the spill site had to vacate their home for two days due to the odour from the spilled biosolids.

The company was charged following investigations by the Ministry of the Environment's Investigations and Enforcement Branch.

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