

February 9, 2009

## Province lays environmental charges against Syncrude

*Edmonton...* The Alberta government has laid charges against Syncrude Canada Ltd. for failing to have appropriate deterrents in place at a tailings pond at its Aurora North Site mine facility last spring.

The charges result from an incident on April 28, 2008 where waterfowl died after landing on a tailings pond at the facility north of Fort McMurray.

Charges are being laid under section 155 of the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA). Under this section, a person who keeps, stores or transports a hazardous substance or pesticide shall do so in a manner that ensures that the hazardous substance does not directly or indirectly come into contact with or contaminate any animals, plants, food or drink.

The maximum penalty for a violation under this section is \$500,000.

Hundreds of thousands of water birds travel through the Fort McMurray oil sands areas. Effective bird deterrence is an important part of the Alberta government's approval requirements for tailings ponds.

-30-

**Editors Note:** Rob Renner, Minister of Environment and Alison Redford, Minister of Justice and Attorney General will be available for questions on February 9, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. in the media room at the Alberta Legislature in Edmonton. Interested media are also welcome to participate by dialing **1-888-300-0053** and entering conference ID number: **85191524**. Reporters who dial in will be greeted by a conference operator asking for their conference ID, name and media affiliation. Reporters are encouraged to dial in 15 minutes early to ensure participation.

### Media inquiries may be directed to:

Kim Capstick  
Director of Communications  
Alberta Environment  
[Kim.Capstick@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Kim.Capstick@gov.ab.ca)  
780-427-6267

Jay O'Neill  
Director of Communications  
Alberta Justice and Attorney General  
[Jay.O'Neill@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Jay.O'Neill@gov.ab.ca)  
780-427-8530

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

[Alberta Government](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Environment Home Page](#) | [Justice and Attorney General Home Page](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

---

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

Copyright(©) 2009 Government of Alberta