

March 10, 2009

Environmental protection order issued to northern Alberta company

Edmonton... The Alberta government has issued an environmental protection order against Ward Chemical Incorporated, operator of a brine extraction, holding, and distributing facility near Calling Lake, for exceeding the regulatory guidelines for chlorides in groundwater.

In 2006, groundwater monitoring at the facility showed high levels of chlorides and other contaminants, which exceeded provincial and federal guidelines.

In May 2007, further investigation identified possible high chloride contamination within the groundwater on-site and visible impact on vegetation off-site. Potential sources of the contamination included the brine storage pond, above ground tank storage area and surface run-off from the site of the facility. Alberta Environment met with Ward Chemical representatives in May 2007 and again in September 2008 to discuss a delineation plan and improved operational activities to address the contamination. Ward Chemical has not met Alberta Environment's expectations to correct the situation.

Under the order, Ward Chemical Incorporated is required to:

- submit an operational plan for the brine storage pond and the above ground storage tanks; and
- submit a delineation plan for the remediation of both on and off-site contamination.

Through inspections, education and strict enforcement measures, Alberta Environment's compliance team ensures individuals and companies adhere to the acts and regulations Alberta has in place to protect human health, safety and the environment.

Environmental protection orders are issued under the authority of Alberta's *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and *Water Act*. The Alberta government can issue orders to remedy a number of environmental problems where the acts have been contravened. The orders are designed to ensure immediate action is taken to correct a situation.

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