

August 16, 2011

Biodiesel company fined for methanol release

Okotoks... The Provincial Court of Alberta has fined Western Biodiesel Inc. \$160,000 under Alberta's *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* for releasing wastewater containing methanol into the environment and providing false or misleading information to investigators.

Jason Freeman, a former manager with the company, also pled guilty to directing the release of contaminated wastewater and knowingly providing false or misleading information to investigators. He was sentenced to four months of house arrest.

The court heard that on October 27, 2008, Freeman directed workers to release flammable wastewater onto the ground at the back of the company's property near High River. The following day a welder, not knowing of the release, ignited the wastewater with a welding torch causing a fire. No one was injured. When investigators arrived at the site in response to an anonymous complaint, Freeman denied that a release had occurred.

Alberta Environment focuses on education, prevention and enforcement to ensure all Albertans continue to enjoy a clean and healthy environment. When individuals or companies fail to comply with legislation, Alberta Environment has a range of options, depending on the offence, to ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

To view Alberta Environment's recent compliance and enforcement actions, visit <http://environment.alberta.ca/0942.html>.

- 30 -

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