

Company Charged with Environmental Violations for Illegal Releases



A processing plant released a mixture of mostly saline wastewater with some hydrocarbons into a nearby creek. In addition, the company failed to immediately report the pipeline release of approximately 850,000 litres of wastewater into a water body. As a result, almost one kilometre of the creek and associated wetlands were impacted. The Alberta government charged the company with four violations of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, including releasing or permitting the release into the environment of a substance that causes or may cause a significant adverse effect and failing to report the release to the proper authorities as soon as it occurred. Environment Canada has also laid charges against the company under the *Fisheries Act* [SemCAMS ULC, Govt. News Release, Feb. 17, 2012].