

The Ministry of Environment staff is investigating the incident involving the contamination of Lavington Community Drinking Water Supply well located near Vernon, BC. The purpose of investigation is to determine compliance with environmental regulations under the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) and the *Water Act*. Such investigations generally involve a site inspection, collection of evidence including photographs, samples of the affected media- soil, water etc, and interviewing witnesses.

The investigation, which may take several months to complete, could result either in a determination that no environmental regulations were violated or that violation(s) of EMA and/or the *Water Act* resulted in this incident. The Ministry has the option to deal with potential violations of our environmental laws either through administrative penalties or by recommending charges to the Crown council for prosecution in a court.

Section 120(a) of Environmental Management Act states that “ A person who contravenes any of the following commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1 000 000 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both:

(a) section 6 (2), (3) or (4) [waste disposal];