

News Release

February 16, 2017

Andrew Bottle Depot Shut Down by the BCMB

Edmonton....Effective February 16, 2017, the Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB) has cancelled the operating permit held by Alberta Reclaim and Recycling Company Inc. for the Andrew Bottle Depot in Andrew, Alberta.

A BCMB Hearing Panel has ruled that the company contravened the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation, BCMB by-laws, permit conditions and Service Agreement by engaging in a systematic effort to defraud the Alberta beverage container recycling system. It did so by transporting significant numbers of beverage containers into Alberta from outside of the province and introducing them into the system in order to obtain revenue to which it was not entitled.

Under Alberta's beverage container recycling system, Albertans pay a deposit when they purchase a beverage and that deposit is refunded when the empty container is returned to a depot for recycling. It is illegal to import containers from outside the province for the purposes of obtaining a refund in Alberta.

The panel's ruling follows a decision by the Environmental Appeals Board in August 2016 to uphold an Administrative Penalty of \$844,778 issued by Alberta Environment and Parks in February 2015 to the company, Mr. Jonny Ha and Mr. Shawn Diep for contravening the Beverage Container Recycling Regulation under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

An Alberta Environment and Parks investigation found that beverage containers were transported into Alberta from the Yukon and returned for a refund in the province's recycling system. The investigation also found Ha and Diep were operating a depot without a permit at a warehouse in Edmonton and had failed to comply with the terms and conditions of their operating permit for the Andrew Bottle Depot. The investigation covered the period between January 2011 and January 2013. The full EAB decision can be found at: <http://www.eab.gov.ab.ca/dec/14-025-027-D.pdf>

"The BCMB takes any threat to the integrity of the beverage container recycling system very seriously and supported Alberta Environment and Parks in their efforts to pursue this particular case to a conclusion," said Jeff Linton, BCMB President. "We have implemented new control measures to prevent

similar occurrences in the future, including new tools and training for analyzing data. This will help improve monitoring and investigation of any suspicious activity in the system.”

Plans are underway to restore permanent beverage container recycling service to residents of Andrew. In the interim, containers can be returned to any depots in the surrounding area for a refund and recycling, including those in Lamont, Mundare, Bruderheim, Two Hills or Smoky Lake. To find a depot, visit our web site at: www.bcmb.ab.ca/find-a-depot/view-map/

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