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NEWS RELEASE

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LAUTENSCHLAGER ANNOUNCES STATE FILES ENVIRONMENTAL CASE AGAINST BALDWIN DAIRY

Concentrated Flow of Liquid Manure Allegedly Runs Off Frozen St. Croix County Field

MADISON - Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager announced today that her office has filed a civil environmental complaint against Baldwin Dairy, St. Croix County, for allegedly violating state environmental laws in March 2002.

According to the state's complaint, the defendant Baldwin Dairy owns and operates a large dairy farm that contains more than 1,000 animal units and is subject to the terms of a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) wastewater permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The complaint alleges that Baldwin Dairy violated the terms of its permit on March 13-16, 2002, by landspreading liquid manure on a field that was frozen and snow covered and contained slopes of greater than nine percent.

According to the complaint, the liquid manure ran off site in a concentrated flow at four different locations, filling roadside ditches and culverts, and settling in neighboring wetlands.

In addition, some of the liquid manure ponded on the intended site, in violation of the company's permit. The complaint alleges that the liquid manure continued to run off site at least through March 27, 2002.

(more)

ADD ONE

The complaint also alleges that the liquid manure was spread in waterways and areas of concentrated runoff, in violation of the permit.

“The alleged violations by Baldwin Dairy pose a serious threat to Wisconsin wetlands and our natural environment - and to the health of our citizens,” Lautenschlager said. “My office will hold violators fully accountable for their failure to comply with Wisconsin’s environmental laws and regulations.”

According to the complaint, the dairy also failed to keep required records of its landspreading activity for the site in 2001, and failed to report the spill to the DNR, as required by its permit.

The complaint requests forfeitures and statutory penalty assessments for the violations, along with the state’s costs and attorneys fees.

The complaint also requests an injunction requiring the dairy to comply fully with its WPDES permit governing manure management.

The Department of Justice filed the case at the request of the DNR.

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