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LATEST NEWS

2:59 PM CDT Monday

Sierra Club plans to sue Emmpak

The Sierra Club said Monday that it has sent an official notice under the Clean Water Act indicating its intent to file a federal lawsuit against Emmpak Foods Inc. for alleged violations of its water permit.

The Sierra Club, citing data from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, claims that the Milwaukee meat processor has violated discharge limits for fats, oils and grease on at least 68 dates since 2000. The Sierra Club is a national environmental organization with 3,200 Milwaukee-area members.

The Sierra Club said the fat, oil and grease discharges can clog MMSD sewerage pipes and exacerbate sewerage overflow problems. The organization said it will sue Emmpak to force the company to install pretreatment systems at its Menomonee Valley slaughterhouse and meat processing plant.

The Sierra Club is represented by Midwest Environmental Advocates Inc., a nonprofit environmental law center that provides legal representation to communities.

Midwest Environmental recently settled a water enforcement case against Cintas Corp., an industrial laundry, that allegedly sent excessive amounts of oil and grease into the MMSD system from its Franklin facility. In that case, Cintas denied any legal wrongdoing, but agreed to install additional wastewater treatment equipment and pay \$65,400 in penalties.

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