



**SIERRA
CLUB**
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**SIERRA CLUB URGES EMMPAK TO CLEAN UP ITS ACT,
SENDS NOTICE FOR LITIGATION**

Milwaukee, WI – Sierra Club, on behalf of their 3,200 Milwaukee area members, sent an official Notice Letter of its intent to file a federal lawsuit under the Clean Water Act to prevent Emmpak Foods, Inc. from continuing to violate its water permit.

“When a company breaks the law and sends too much pollution into our water, we think they should face the consequences,” said Cheri Briscoe, a resident of Milwaukee and Chair of the Sierra Club Great Waters Group.

The Sierra Club is represented by Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc., a nonprofit environmental law center that provides legal representation to communities working for clean air, clean water, and environmental justice.

Emmpak is a slaughterhouse and meat processing plant located in Milwaukee’s Menomonee Valley. Emmpak discharges fats, oil and grease into the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) system. According to MMSD industrial monitoring data, Emmpak has violated MMSD’s local pretreatment limit for fat, oil and grease on at least 68 dates since 2000.

Notwithstanding repeated letters, warnings and published notices of violations from MMSD, Emmpak has failed to install the pretreatment technology necessary to remedy the problem and to bring the company into compliance with its pretreatment permit.

Fat, oils and grease can clog MMSD sewerage pipes and exacerbate sewage overflow problems, causing sewage, fats and other pollution to reach Milwaukee waterways and Lake Michigan without being treated. MMSD has indicated that Emmpak has already harmed its treatment system and will continue to do so, as demonstrated by MMSD’s need in October of 2003 to remove a 20 feet long mass of material consisting of livestock bones, nose rings, stomach magnets and wire from its pipeline immediately downstream of the Emmpak facility at a cost of nearly \$31,000.

“Emmpak has violated both its wastewater pretreatment limit and the federal Clean Water Act for over four years despite repeated letters and published notices of noncompliance,” according to Jodi Habush Sinykin, Of Counsel to Midwest Environmental Advocates. She added that, “Milwaukeeans simply cannot afford to allow big-time violators like Emmpak to take advantage of our already over-stressed sewerage system.”

The Sierra Club’s Notice Letter informs Emmpak that it has 60 days to correct the violations or the Sierra Club will sue in federal court to enforce the law.

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Fast Facts:

- The Sierra Club's members are more than 700,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.
- Midwest Environmental Advocates is Wisconsin’s first and only non-profit, public interest environmental law center. Midwest Environmental Advocates provides legal representation and community organizing assistance to community groups who are working for clean air, clean water, and environmental justice. For more information, go to www.midwestadvocates.org.
- Midwest Environmental Advocates recently settled another water enforcement case against an industrial laundry, Cintas Corp., that had similarly sent excessive amounts of oil and grease into the MMSD system. The settlement provided \$47,000 to two local non profits to increase public access to the Milwaukee River by purchasing land for the Beerline B Bicycle Trail and to increase public awareness about water quality by purchasing water testing equipment, a boat, and a digital camera to monitor water quality problems in Milwaukee.
- Emmpak was formerly known as Emmbers Foods, and before that it was known as Peck Meat Packing Company. In 2001, Emmpak was purchased by Excel Corporation, which is the United State’s third-largest meatpacking enterprise, operating sixteen slaughterhouses and meat processing plants in eleven states and Canada. Based in Wichita, Kansas, Excel Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cargill Food Solutions, Inc., one of the largest privately held corporations in the world with eight hundred operations in fifty-nine countries and with 2003 sales and revenues approaching sixty billion dollars.