

MSD and Fire Department Help the Environment

Thanks in part to the Metropolitan Sewer District and the Cincinnati Fire Department, Cincinnati-based Cognis Corporation was ordered in United States District Court this week to pay a total of \$434,994 in fines, restitution and donations for violating the Clean Water Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. MSD and the Cincinnati Fire Department, along with Ohio EPA, were instrumentally involved in the investigation and resolution of this environmental hazard. They worked with United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; U.S Environmental Protection Agency Criminal Investigation Division; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region Three; Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife; and the Ohio Attorney General's office.

Cognis pled guilty on September 28, 2006 to four counts of violating the Clean Water Act and one count of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. All five counts are misdemeanors.

The Ohio EPA, Cincinnati Metro Sewer District and Cincinnati Fire Department sent an emergency response team to the site after there were four releases from the Cognis facility into Mill Creek, causing the death of a dozen waterfowl and thousands of fish.