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MADIGAN: CICERO OIL COMPANY TO CLEAN UP SPILLS INTO CHICAGO SHIPPING CANAL

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced a court order requiring a Cicero-based oil production facility to remediate the effects of a series of oil spills at the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal that began earlier this summer.

The order, which was entered today in Cook County Circuit Court, requires Olympic Oil Ltd. to take immediate action to prevent further spills and seepage and to fully remediate contaminated soil and groundwater. The Olympic Oil facility, located at 5000 W. 41st St. in Cicero, blends and packages petroleum lubricating oil and antifreeze products. From at least late July, oil and other pollutants have been leaking from the facility at an unknown rate, contaminating stormwater that has flooded into the adjacent sanitary and ship canal.

“This order will ensure the company takes the necessary steps to clean up the waterway and to prevent future overflows from contaminating the surrounding area,” Madigan said.

In addition, the company must submit a report to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Attorney General’s office detailing the progress of cleanup efforts, including documentation that the contaminated water and soil has been properly disposed of, as well as results of soil and water sampling.

The next status hearing in the case is set for Dec. 4, 2014. Assistant Attorneys General Christopher Grant, Robert Petti and Nichole Sangha are handling the case for Madigan’s Environmental Bureau.

-30-

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