



Powerline Plus Fined for Pipeline Strike

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Toronto, ON, June 7, 2007) – Powerline Plus Limited, a Scarborough-based contractor, recently pled guilty to a serious public safety violation, contrary to Ontario Regulation 210/01 (Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems) under the *Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000* (the Act). With the maximum penalty of \$1,000,000 for non-compliant corporations, the Ontario Court of Justice in Toronto fined the defendant \$25,000, plus the 25% Victim Surcharge, given the circumstances of the case.

In May 2005, the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) investigated a natural gas pipeline strike at an excavation scene near 204 St. Clair Avenue West in Toronto, Ontario. Responding to a call regarding pipeline damage, it was determined that Powerline Plus Ltd. had severed a one and a quarter inch gas service line with a backhoe, failing to follow proper hand tool procedures within one metre of a located line. Powerline Plus was subsequently charged with interfering with or damaging a pipeline without the authority to do so.

Bringing charges against companies or individuals for failing to follow proper procedures is part of TSSA's safety mandate, and strongly reinforces its prosecution objectives to deter violators and increase public safety.

"Prosecution for non-compliance is an important enforcement tool," says Mike Scarland, Manager of Operations for TSSA's Fuels Safety Program. "However working with stakeholders toward compliance and cooperation, often in proactive partnership, is the cornerstone of fuels safety."

Leading efforts to develop best practices, TSSA works with partners like the Ontario Regional Chapter of the Common Ground Alliance to implement a certificate for utility locators, support underground infrastructure information and prevent future pipeline incidents.

TSSA is an innovative, self-funded, non-government organization focused on delivering public safety services. It provides not-for-profit regulatory safety services in industry sectors such as natural gas, petroleum, propane fuels and equipment, operating engineers, elevating devices, amusement devices, boilers and pressure vessels, and upholstered and stuffed articles. The organization's wide range of regulated and discretionary consultancy safety services include public education and consumer information, training and certification, licensing and registration, engineering design review, inspection, investigations, safety management consultation, and enforcement and prosecution activities. The organization's vision is to be the world leader in public safety services.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Dave Lisle, Director, Public Relations and Communications, TSSA
Telephone: 1-877-682-8772; Email: media@tssa.org

For more information about the Technical Standards and Safety Authority, please visit our web site at www.tssa.org