



# DEP NEWS

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

**FOR RELEASE:**  
May 17, 2005

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## **Acton Manufacturing Firm Assessed \$4,477 Penalty For Industrial Wastewater, Hazardous Waste Violations**

Novotech, Inc. of Acton has been assessed a penalty of \$4,477 by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for violating Industrial Wastewater and Hazardous Waste regulations.

During a routine inspection of Novotech's 916 Main Street manufacturing facility, conducted by DEP personnel last November, it was determined that the company discharged industrial wastewater to its onsite septic system, failed to determine whether the wastes it generates are hazardous, failed to mark its hazardous waste accumulation area, and failed to keep hazardous waste containers closed and properly labeled.

As part of a consent order, the company had to immediately cease the discharge of wastewater to the septic system, correct the waste management violations, and was assessed the \$4,477 penalty. Through the application of DEP's Small Business Policy, \$3,477 of the penalty is suspended provided the company fully complies with the consent order.

"Waste water from industrial operations may not be discharged to septic systems. Septic systems are not designed to treat industrial wastes, and those discharges may also cause failure of the septic system to treat the sanitary wastes they are designed to handle. It is an illegal discharge that potentially results in several environmental impacts," said Lee Dillard Adams, deputy director for DEP's Central Regional Office in Worcester.

The Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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