

NDK submits documents to state's attorney, attorney general, IEPA

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BELVIDERE — Facing a \$500 a day fine, NDK Crystal met a Jan. 30 court-ordered deadline to submit documentation to government offices stating what chemicals may have been released into the environment after the Dec. 7 explosion at the company's crystal manufacturing plant.

Flying debris from the explosion killed one man and caused considerable damage to the 10-story, \$12.5 million plant near Interstate 90.

"We're receiving information, and we're looking forward to receiving more information along the lines of the agreed-upon court order," Illinois Attorney General spokesman Scott Mulford said Wednesday.

Boone County State's Attorney Michelle Courier said her office also has received documents from NDK that are still being reviewed.

"There's quite a bit of information here," she said. Until all the of material has been examined, Courier said, "We can't say they have complied, but they are cooperating."

The Illinois EPA received documentation Tuesday from NDK that is still being reviewed, spokeswoman Maggie Carson said.

NDK is responding to a 12-page court order filed Jan. 20 in Boone County Circuit Court. The order also serves as a preliminary injunction and essentially prohibits any production at the facility where synthetic quartz crystal was grown.

In addition to stating what chemicals may have been released, NDK must produce a written description of the company's crystal production process as well as a list of all chemicals used in the process. NDK also agreed to provide a corrective action plan, hazard and operability study, and a "root-cause analysis" of what triggered the disaster.

Courier and representatives from the Illinois attorney general's office filed a two-count complaint Dec. 31 against NDK, saying the company posed environmental and health hazards when the explosion sent a cloud of quartz particles over the area.

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