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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Imperial Western Joins Elite List of BQ-9000 Accredited Biodiesel Producers

Quality Control Program Helps Ensure Consumer Confidence as Biodiesel Industry Grows

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) today announced that Imperial Western Products, Inc. of Coachella, Calif., has achieved its BQ-9000 accreditation. This producer of Biotane biodiesel is now a BQ-9000 Accredited Producer under the National Biodiesel Accreditation Program -- a cooperative and voluntary fuel quality program adopted by both the NBB and the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association.

“We have watched BQ-9000 become the quality program recognized as the industry standard,” said Curtis Wright, Manager of Biodiesel Operations at Imperial Western. “Even though we had our own quality program in place, we decided it was the right choice to become accredited.”

“The past year has been the break-out year of biodiesel demand,” said Joe Jobe, Chief Executive Officer of NBB, “and increasing numbers of BQ-9000 companies within that time reflect that. With increasing production and higher volumes of fuel in the marketplace, fuel quality is a top priority for the industry.”

BQ-9000 is a quality assurance program that includes procedures for fuel storage, handling and management aimed at ensuring fuel quality throughout the distribution system. The program creates a comprehensive quality system whereby fuel is consistently produced in accordance with ASTM specifications and maintains its quality all the way to the customer’s fuel tank.

“Imperial Western wanted to help give confidence to prospective buyers and current customers alike,” said Wright. “We are proud to be a BQ-9000 accredited producer and I believe we’re the first of such that uses yellow grease and animal fats as feedstock.”

“The BQ-9000 program is designed to promote the commercial success of biodiesel and to provide consumers with the utmost confidence by recognizing biodiesel producers and marketers who demonstrate compliance with high quality standards,” said Leland Tong, chairman of the National Biodiesel Accreditation Commission (NBAC). “With such rapid industry growth,

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ensuring that only a quality product reaches every consumer is more critical than ever. The NBAC and NBB commend the first five companies who took the initiative to become BQ-9000 accredited.”

Accreditation under the BQ-9000 program is open to all companies that produce, distribute or market biodiesel either in its pure form or for use in blending with petroleum diesel fuel. There are two types of designation under the program: Accredited Producer and Certified Marketer. Other biodiesel producers and marketers are in the process of pursuing this certification as well. Peter Cremer North America was the first company to become an accredited producer under the program. West Central, Dow Haltermann and Eastman Chemical are the other accredited producers. More information on the BQ-9000 program is available at www.BQ-9000.org.

“After going through the process, we would encourage other biodiesel producers to become BQ-9000 accredited as well,” Wright said. “The process helped us formalize and document more completely our existing quality program.”

Biodiesel is a cleaner burning fuel that can be made from domestic renewable resources such as soybean oil. The alternative fuel can be used in any diesel engine with few or no modifications, in pure form or blended with petroleum diesel at any level.

Biodiesel significantly reduces emissions such as carbon monoxide, unburned hydrocarbons and particulate matter. It is nontoxic, biodegradable and essentially free of sulfur and aromatics. Biodiesel offers similar fuel economy, horsepower and torque to petroleum diesel while providing superior lubricity. Today, it is the fastest growing alternative fuel in America, and about 600 major fleets use biodiesel nationwide. Over 600 retail filling stations make various biodiesel blends available to the public, and more than 1,500 petroleum distributors carry it nationwide.

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For more information about Imperial Western, please visit www.imperialwesternproducts.com. Readers can learn more about biodiesel by visiting www.biodiesel.org. This material sponsored by the USDA Biodiesel Education Program.