

EPI Environmental Technologies Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unfounded Attacks by the Bioplastics Industry

Vancouver, Canada (June 29, 2011) - By now, it is clear that the Bioplastics industry has established a clear objective to eliminate oxo-biodegradable plastic (OBP) competition and is taking a systematic approach in its efforts to discredit oxo-biodegradable technology. This is evidenced by the Bioplastics lobby making a concerted effort to join plastics associations around the world and exerting its influence on legislators so that it can attack oxobiodegradable technology with the backing of influential groups. Bioplastics attacks on OBP are now occurring with increasing frequency in a number of countries including Mexico, Colombia, Turkey, China and US.

If there are any doubts whether the Bioplastics industry is targeting OBP, these doubts should surely be laid to rest when considering the European Bioplastics Association publication (in the 2009 First Edition), which proudly trumpeted "Fighting Oxos – European Bioplastics Position on Oxo-Fragmentable Products". OBP technology is certainly a thorn in the side of the Bioplastics industry as it is the most economical route to achieving plastics degradation, in comparison to Bioplastics resins which are significantly more expensive than conventional plastic resins. Bioplastics have been in development for several decades, with major investment from multinational corporations who now want a return on their investment. These corporations do not want to see their efforts derailed by a competing technology. Therefore, the attacks on OBP are mounting.

Common to these attacks is the claim that OBPs fragment but do not biodegrade because OBPs do not pass current standards for biodegradation. Conveniently omitted is the fact that these so called "biodegradation standards" are the compostability standards, ASTM D6400 and EN 13432. These standards are only relevant to biodegradation in industrial composting facilities where there is high temperature and controlled moisture content. But even where there is industrial composting being carried out, bioplastics are not being widely accepted by the composting facilities, so it is highly questionable as to what value there is to using bioplastics.

Another inconvenient truth that is not communicated by the Bioplastics lobby is that the Bioplastic manufacturers do not recommend their plastics for landfill disposal, because there may not be sufficient moisture to degrade the plastic (meaning no degradation at all) or the biodegradation that would take place would be anaerobic (oxygen-depleted), resulting in methane generation. Methane is more than 20 times worse than carbon dioxide for the global warming situation, so any methane production in landfills is considered to have a negative environmental impact.

Oxo-biodegradable additives provide an economical means to enable conventional plastics such as polyethylene, polypropylene and polystyrene (that take decades or centuries to degrade) to degrade in a short time frame. This helps to alleviate the problem of the persistence and accumulation of plastics in the environment. The degradation, biodegradation, and non-ecotoxicity of Oxo-biodegradable plastics is evaluated in accordance with the ASTM D6954 standard testing guide, which provides tests suitable for establishing and validating the degradation performance.

Although Oxo-biodegradable plastics do not meet the composting standards biodegradation time frame, biodegradation has certainly been verified and substantiated both in independent lab testing, and in substantial scientific literature. In addition, EPI is the only company to have studied the degradation performance of plastics containing its additives in real, working landfills, and has proven that its plastics will completely degrade in the landfill. Because the oxygen in the landfill eventually is depleted, biodegradation of any residual Oxo-biodegradable plastics is not expected to occur after that point and, therefore, harmful methane gas will not be generated.

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Biodegradation of Oxo-biodegradable plastics will occur in the environment where moisture, oxygen, and micro-organisms are present. This is particularly the case for products that end up in the environment as litter. As the products break down, the micro-organisms that are present in soil will consume the degraded plastic and allow the plastic to enter the natural biocycle.

In conclusion, the statements of the Bioplastics lobbyists do not fully reflect reality when it comes to Bioplastics and Oxo-biodegradable plastics. Certain facts are conveniently omitted and without knowing all the facts, it is impossible to understand the real benefits or drawbacks of any technology. All the facts must be on the table before any informed decision can be reached, and the Bioplastics groups are not presenting all the facts.

About EPI Environmental Technologies Inc.:

Established in 1991 in Canada, EPI Environmental Technologies Inc. (EPI) with its UK subsidiary EPI (Europe) Ltd. has become a world leader in the fight against plastic waste. EPI licenses proprietary technology that causes plastic to degrade. Plastic bags, plastic film, plastic packaging and other single-use plastics can remain in the environment for decades. When these products are manufactured using EPI's additives, they will degrade and subsequently biodegrade when discarded in soil, in the presence of microorganisms, moisture, and oxygen.

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