
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delayed DEFRA Response a Concern

Vancouver, Canada (Aug 30, 2011) - The DEFRA report on oxo-biodegradable (OBD) plastics, published in 2010, presented an unflattering portrait of OBD technology and attacked many of the core benefits associated with OBD plastics. This was of particular concern to EPI Environmental Products Inc. (EPI) because the report was commissioned by a UK government body, whose opinion is normally respected. EPI considered this to be a matter of high importance and undertook to examine the report and how it came to be.

A critical review of the report conducted by EPI's International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) suggested severe deficiencies, both in the authors' review of available information and in the reasoning behind their conclusions. These conclusions were based on an inadequate review of the scientific literature and on erroneous assumptions. It was also apparent that Bioplastics proponents had guided the authors and the report suffered by being excessively influenced by the opinions of the Bioplastics industry.

The use of composting standards as biodegradation specifications is a tactic that is commonly used by the Bioplastics industry to attack OBD technology. That this approach was selected by the DEFRA report's authors for assessing biodegradation of OBD plastics reflected the fact that the authors have no background or experience in polymer degradation or biodegradation and relied too heavily on guidance from outside sources. The authors were ill-equipped to take on such a project and were certainly not well qualified to draw conclusions regarding degradation and biodegradation, based on the limited scientific literature review that they conducted.

Another issue was that the DEFRA authors only briefly consulted with OBD stakeholders during the very early stages of their review, and there was no follow-up consultation to clarify misconceptions or to request additional information. This is in stark contrast to other similar reports that have been prepared on DEFRA's behalf, where there has been extensive consultation with stakeholders.

EPI quickly voiced its condemnation of the report's conclusions, which was echoed by other companies in the OBD industry. With the British Plastics Federation acting as an intermediary, DEFRA agreed to listen to the OBD industry response to the DEFRA report findings. Chaired by the BPF, a group of industry representatives prepared a rebuttal document, which includes a complete review of current OBD technology. This document was presented to DEFRA for review on behalf of the OBD industry in May 2011 and will be made public once DEFRA has responded to it. EPI's representative on this group was Prof. Norman Billingham, a long standing and esteemed member of EPI's International Scientific Advisory Board.

The amount of information collected for this document clearly shows that there is a vast body of scientific evidence substantiating the performance of OBD technology which the DEFRA authors did not access or take into account. This information refutes the conclusions of the DEFRA report and validates the claims of the OBD stakeholders with regards to the benefits of OBD plastics.

Press Release

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EPI Environmental Products Inc.



About EPI Environmental Products Inc.:

Established in 1991 in Canada, EPI Environmental Products 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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