

Bennett Environmental Announces Q1 Results

Oakville, Ontario, April 24, 2003 - Bennett Environmental Inc., a North American leader in the high temperature treatment of contaminated soils, announces a Q1 profit of \$3,094,697 or \$0.18 per fully diluted share on revenue of \$12,050,113. Compared to the same quarter last year, the Company had profit of \$3,661,107 or \$0.21 per share on revenue of \$12,833,130.

“Despite some weather related challenges, I am pleased with the results we achieved in the quarter”, said John Bennett, Chairman and CEO of Bennett Environmental. “As outlined in our Q4 investor conference call on February 6th and again in a Bennett Update press release on March 7th, the early months of 2003 have seen some of the severest weather conditions on record for the N.E. United States and Eastern Canada. The weather impacted our customers operations and caused approximately two weeks of production losses due to lack of soil and weather related slowdowns. Customer shipments were back up to speed by the end of January and the plant has operated flawlessly for a near record 35 consecutive days in the quarter. The engineering upgrades we made to the plant last year have significantly improved our efficiency and operating reliability.”

The Company's investment of \$1,526,398 this quarter in new plant and equipment at the Saint Ambroise treatment facility for the construction of a significantly larger soil storage building will help alleviate these weather related shipping problems, enhance the Company's ability to service its customers and reduce the Company's dependence on timely customer shipments. This new building will be operational by this summer.

Mr. Bennett added: “We are also pleased to announce that we have recently received purchase orders under the agreement we signed with a leading Fortune 500 electrical manufacturing company late last year. These first shipments that will be received starting in Q2, are the beginning of what is expected to be significant quantities of soil to be remediated under this 5-year agreement. In addition, bidding activity is at an all time high and we are currently receiving shipments from as far south as Florida, as far west as British Columbia as well as Eastern Canada and the N.E. United States.”

Permitting activities for the proposed new plant in Belledune, New Brunswick are proceeding well and in line with expectations. We are working co-operatively with the New Brunswick government and the citizens of Belledune and surrounding area and are currently in the process of complying with the requirements to obtain a construction permit expected in June.

The Company treated approximately 16,000 tonnes of contaminated soil in the quarter and expects to treat 85,000 tonnes this year. The Company reiterates that it is confident in achieving the previously stated financial guidance of Cdn. \$70 - \$75 million (U.S. \$47 - \$50 million) in revenue and Cdn. \$1.20 - \$1.30 (U.S. \$0.80 - \$0.87) in earnings per

share. This represents a further 50% increase in sales revenue and a 70% increase in earnings over 2002 record levels.

Results of Operations

Bennett Environmental had a Q1 profit of \$3,094,697 or \$0.18 per fully diluted share versus a profit of \$3,661,107 or \$0.21 per share in the corresponding period last year. Revenues were \$12,050,113 in the quarter versus \$12,833,130 for Q1 2002.

The Company's operating costs of \$5,174,071 for the first quarter, were slightly lower than the \$5,259,101 for the same period last year and reflect the reduced plant utilization in the quarter due to the weather impacted production delays. Administrative and business development costs of \$1,789,325 for the quarter were comparable to the \$1,761,049 incurred in Q1 2002. The Company incurred a \$215,666 foreign exchange loss due to fluctuations in the value of the US dollar at the end of the quarter.

The Company's cash position decreased in the quarter by \$7,821,988, with cash on hand of \$11,445,652 at March 31. Cash payments were made for prepaid expenses (eg. insurance) of \$1,437,414, reductions in accounts payable of \$2,226,669 and payment of income taxes of \$4,126,755. However, cash balances are up by \$5,110,204 from \$6,335,448 at the end of the same period last year. Receivables balance of \$14,593,295 is up from the \$12,505,945 outstanding at the end of December 31, 2002 and reflects the higher level of sales activity late in the quarter versus Q4 2002 and timing differences between revenue recognition and invoice payment on the Company's Saglek, Labrador contract with the Department of Defence. The Company's net working capital position at March 31, 2003 increased to \$20,771,294 from the net working capital position of \$18,206,207 at December 31, 2002.

The weighted average number of shares outstanding for the quarter was 16,648,628 basic and 17,418,024 fully diluted. The Company had 3,844 shareholders as of the record date of April 7, 2003 for the Annual General Meeting, of which nearly 40% were from the United States. This represents a significant growth in the number of the Company's shareholders, particularly among retail investors, from the nearly 1400 shareholders a year ago.

About Bennett Environmental Inc.

Bennett Environmental Inc. is a North American leader in high temperature treatment services for the remediation of contaminated soil and has provided thermal solutions to contamination problems throughout Canada and the US. Bennett Environmental's proprietary technology provides for a safe, economical and permanent solution to contaminated soil. Independent testing has consistently proven that the technology operates well within the most stringent criteria in North America.

Bennett Environmental is listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (Trading Symbol "BEV") and the American Stock Exchange (Trading Symbol "BEL"). For information, please visit the Bennett Environmental website at www.bennettenv.com, or contact John Bennett at the Vancouver office (604) 681-8828 or Rick Stern at the Oakville office (905) 339-1540.

Note for Investors:

This news release includes statements about expected future events and/or financial results that are forward looking in nature and subject to risks and uncertainties. For those statements, we claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements provisions contained in the Private Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The Company cautions that actual performance will be affected by a number of various factors, many of which are beyond the company's control. Discussions of the various factors that may affect future results are contained in the company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and Ontario Securities Commission.

BENNETT ENVIRONMENTAL INC.

Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Expressed in Canadian dollars)

As at March 31, 2003 with comparative figures

As at December 31, 2002

	March 31 2003	December 31 2002
	(unaudited)	
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 11,445,652	\$ 19,267,639
Accounts receivable	14,593,295	12,505,945
Work-in-progress	464,738	411,051
Prepaid expenses and other	2,614,627	1,177,214
	<u>28,855,812</u>	<u>33,361,849</u>
Investment	851,395	851,395
Property Plant and Equipment	15,348,631	14,263,408
Other assets	3,322,866	3,261,384
Goodwill	646,638	646,638
	<u>\$ 49,287,842</u>	<u>\$ 52,384,674</u>
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 5,751,427	\$ 7,978,096
Income taxes payable	1,735,768	5,862,523
Current portion of long-term debt	1,331,223	1,315,023
	<u>8,084,518</u>	<u>15,155,642</u>
Future income tax liability	832,311	895,738
Long-term debt	549,842	829,434
Shareholders' equity		
Share capital	24,370,715	23,882,001
(Common shares outstanding 16,648,628 (March 31, 2002 - 15,887,461))		
Retained Earnings (Deficit)	14,716,556	11,621,859
	<u>39,087,271</u>	<u>35,503,860</u>
	<u>\$ 49,287,842</u>	<u>\$ 52,384,674</u>

BENNETT ENVIRONMENTAL INC.

Consolidated Statement of Operations and Retained Earnings (Deficit)

(Expressed in Canadian dollars)

 For the Three-Month Period Ended March 31, 2003 with comparative figures for
 the Three-Month Period Ended March 31, 2002

	March 31 2003 (unaudited)	March 31 2002 (unaudited)
Sales	\$ 12,050,113	\$ 12,833,130
Interest and other income	268,280	190,032
	<u>12,318,393</u>	<u>13,023,162</u>
Expenses		
Operating costs	5,174,071	5,259,101
Administration and business development	1,789,325	1,761,049
Amortization	441,175	324,774
Foreign exchange	215,666	-
Interest expense	36,714	36,710
	<u>7,656,951</u>	<u>7,381,634</u>
Earnings before income taxes	4,661,442	5,641,528
Income tax expense (recovery)		
Current	1,630,172	1,923,480
Future	(63,427)	56,941
	<u>1,566,745</u>	<u>1,980,421</u>
Net earnings	3,094,697	3,661,107
Retained Earnings (Deficit), beginning of period	11,621,859	(144,818)
Retained Earnings, end of period	<u>\$ 14,716,556</u>	<u>\$ 3,516,289</u>
Basic earnings per share	<u>\$ 0.19</u>	<u>\$ 0.23</u>
Fully diluted earnings per share	<u>\$ 0.18</u>	<u>\$ 0.21</u>

BENNETT ENVIRONMENTAL INC.

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

(Expressed in Canadian dollars)

 For the Three-Month Period Ended March 31, 2003 with comparative figures for
 the Three-Month Period Ended March 31, 2002

	March 31 2003	March 31 2002
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN):		
Operations		
Net earnings	\$ 3,094,697	\$ 3,661,107
Items not involving cash		
Amortization	441,175	324,774
Future income taxes	(63,427)	56,941
Deferred revenue	-	(165,933)
	<u>3,472,445</u>	<u>3,876,889</u>
Change in non-cash operating working capital		
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts receivable	(2,087,350)	861,430
Decrease (Increase) in Work-in-progress	(53,687)	495,816
Increase in Prepaid expenses and other	(1,437,414)	(859,099)
Decrease in Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(2,226,669)	(1,370,133)
Increase (Decrease) in Income taxes payable	(4,126,755)	712,874
	<u>(9,931,875)</u>	<u>(159,112)</u>
Financing Activities		
Repayments of long-term debt	(263,392)	(183,820)
Share capital, issued for cash	488,715	925,475
	<u>225,323</u>	<u>741,655</u>
Investing Activities		
Investments	-	(440,000)
Purchase of capital assets	(1,526,398)	(477,695)
Increase in other assets	(61,482)	(246,367)
	<u>(1,587,880)</u>	<u>(1,164,062)</u>
Increase (Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(7,821,987)	3,295,368
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	<u>19,267,639</u>	<u>3,040,080</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	<u>\$ 11,445,652</u>	<u>\$ 6,335,448</u>