

Bennett Environmental Announces Small Q1 Loss

Oakville, Ontario, April 29, 2004 – Bennett Environmental Inc. announces a loss in its first quarter ended March 31, 2004 of \$0.4 million, or \$0.02 per fully diluted share compared to earnings in the same quarter a year ago of \$3.1 million or \$0.17 per fully diluted share. Revenues were \$8.9 million versus \$12.1 million a year earlier.

While volumes processed during the quarter increased to 20,000 tonnes compared to 16,000 tonnes in the first quarter of 2003, soil mix was far less favourable. In addition, our plant in Saint Ambroise, Quebec experienced an unplanned shutdown due to a lack of soil available for processing. Administrative and business development expenses increased to \$3.1 million in the quarter from \$2.0 million in the same period a year ago as we continue to staff up in anticipation of the start-up of our Belledune, New Brunswick facility. There were also additional legal and other costs related to permitting for the Belledune plant.

“The quarter is a great disappointment and our second quarter will not be easy either,” said Allan Bulckaert, President and CEO. “But I don’t believe these kinds of results are indicative of Bennett’s longer term performance. I am just as positive today about Bennett’s prospects as I was when I accepted this position two months ago. The company’s fundamentals remain sound and while there are clear areas for process and business improvements, I see the current period as more of an anomaly in Bennett’s long-term progress.”

On March 29, the Company advised shareholders that first quarter earnings would be significantly lower than expected due to the processing of high volumes of low margin soil, primarily from the Saglek, Labrador project. While the Saglek project is profitable for Bennett, revenue recognition for soil processing is lower than on other aspects of the project, such as site clean up and shipping. Normally, the Company is able to process a more optimum mix of soils, increasing revenues on the same cost base. However, a shortage of other soils during the first quarter was compounded by delays in shipping of higher margin material from two larger customers. The Company still expects to receive the same volume of contaminated soil from these customers, with shipments at a later date than originally expected. Upon resumption of normal deliveries, the Company expects a return to historical margins.

“Our challenge is to ensure we have a constant flow of material from a variety of projects throughout the year and to fill our storage facilities by year-end,” said Mr. Bulckaert. “Only by ensuring that we have an ample inventory of soil available, can we reduce the risk of unscheduled plant shutdowns and better manage overall margins.”

The Company’s plant at Saint Ambroise has been shut down since the end of March. A planned two-week maintenance shutdown in July was moved forward and most of this work has been completed. The Company now expects the plant to resume processing in mid-May. Second quarter results will be affected by the shutdown.

The Company is in negotiations with the Canadian Department of National Defence for the recovery of extraordinary costs associated with the Saglek project. Negotiations are also continuing on a contract for a second phase of the Saglek project. An announcement on this contract is expected by the end of the second quarter.

“We are confident that we will have adequate volumes for the start-up of Belledune in the third quarter as well as for its continued operation,” said Mr. Bulckaert. “There is no lack of opportunities out there. We are increasing sales staffing and improving our ability to win new business.”

The Company’s operating costs of \$5.7 million for the first quarter were higher than the \$5.2 million for the same period last year, reflecting higher plant utilization in the quarter. Plant capacity utilization of about 80% was limited by a lack of soil for processing during the quarter.

Administrative and business development costs of \$3.1 million compare to \$2.3 million in the fourth quarter of 2003 and \$2.0 million in the first quarter 2003. Expenditures for insurance, salaries, legal and professional fees comprise the bulk of the increase. Non-recurring expenditures represent about \$300,000 of the quarterly total. Amortization and depreciation was \$657,337 for the quarter and reflect the increase in depreciation for the new storage facility constructed at the Saint Ambroise plant in mid 2003 and depreciation of assets and operating permits associated with the Eco Logic International purchase in late 2003.

Effective January 1, 2004, the Company adopted the amended recommendations of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants for accounting of stock based compensation. These recommendations have been applied retroactively, with restatement of prior periods. In total, stock compensation expense was \$169,059 in the quarter versus \$180,304 incurred in the comparable quarter last year.

The Company has cash of \$23.2 million after the expenditure of \$9.4 million for the construction of the new Belledune facility. The Company also has an untapped line of credit of \$10 million and has no current plans for its use. Receivable balances of \$26.1 million are down slightly from last quarter and are expected to decline significantly in the second quarter due to the payment of outstanding invoices by the Government of Canada as part of the payment schedule for the Saglek Labrador project. The balance of outstanding shares at March 31, 2004 was 18,305,739.

Current contract backlog stands at \$218 million Can. or \$163 million US.

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 the 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.



For Immediate Release

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 Al Bulckaert 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 harbour 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, 2004 with comparative figures

As at December 31, 2003

	March 31 2004 (Unaudited)	December 31 2003 (Audited) (Restated - Note 2)
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 23,231,571	\$ 12,586,353
Accounts receivable	26,106,965	29,012,175
Work-in-progress	94,933	151,893
Prepaid expenses and other	3,238,342	2,154,983
	<u>52,671,811</u>	<u>43,905,404</u>
Investment	534,894	568,193
Property Plant and Equipment	32,617,742	23,779,384
Other assets	7,088,629	6,777,953
Goodwill	646,638	646,638
	<u>\$ 93,559,714</u>	<u>\$ 75,677,572</u>
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 6,107,762	\$ 9,964,937
Income taxes payable	143,400	2,961,632
Current portion of long-term debt	9,569	4,601
	<u>6,260,731</u>	<u>12,931,170</u>
Future income tax liability	2,043,541	2,616,861
Deferred revenue	93,321	814,409
Long-term debt	5,399	417,143
Shareholders' equity		
Share capital	54,925,305	28,397,470
(Common shares outstanding 18,305,739 (March 31, 2003 - 16,648,628))		
Contributed surplus	1,267,517	1,201,776
Retained Earnings	28,963,900	29,298,743
	<u>85,156,722</u>	<u>58,897,989</u>
	<u>\$ 93,559,714</u>	<u>\$ 75,677,572</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

BENNETT ENVIRONMENTAL INC.

Consolidated Statement of Operations and Retained Earnings (Deficit)

(Unaudited)

(Expressed in Canadian dollars)

For the Three-Month Period Ended March 31, 2004 with comparative figures for

the Three-Month Period Ended March 31, 2003

	March 31 2004	March 31 2003
		(Restated - Note 2)
Sales	\$ 8,942,184	\$ 12,050,113
Interest and other income	120,879	268,280
	9,063,063	12,318,393
Expenses		
Operating costs	5,682,943	5,174,071
Administration and business development	3,081,986	1,969,629
Amortization	657,337	441,175
Foreign exchange	(3,688)	215,666
Interest expense	25,568	36,714
	9,444,146	7,837,255
Earnings before income taxes	(381,083)	4,481,138
Income tax expense (recovery)		
Current	57,765	1,630,172
Future	(104,005)	(63,427)
	(46,240)	1,566,745
Net earnings (loss)	(334,843)	2,914,393
Retained Earnings, beginning of period	29,298,743	11,125,284
Retained Earnings, end of period	\$ 28,963,900	\$ 14,039,677
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.18
Fully diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$ (0.02)	\$ 0.17

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

BENNETT ENVIRONMENTAL INC.

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

(Unaudited)

(Expressed in Canadian dollars)

For the Three-Month Period Ended March 31, 2004 with comparative figures for
 the Three-Month Period Ended March 31, 2003

	March 31 2004	March 31 2003
		(Restated - Note 2)
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN):		
Operations		
Net earnings (loss)	\$ (334,843)	\$ 2,914,393
Items not involving cash		
Amortization	657,337	441,175
Equity investment loss	33,299	-
Future income taxes	(104,005)	(63,427)
Stock-based compensation (Note 2)	169,059	180,304
Deferred revenue	(721,088)	-
	<u>(300,241)</u>	<u>3,472,445</u>
Change in non-cash operating working capital		
Accounts receivable	2,905,210	(2,087,350)
Work-in-progress	56,960	(53,687)
Prepaid expenses and other	(1,083,359)	(1,437,414)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(3,857,175)	(2,226,669)
Income taxes payable	(2,818,232)	(4,126,755)
	<u>(4,796,596)</u>	<u>(9,931,875)</u>
Financing Activities		
Repayments of long-term debt	(406,776)	(263,392)
Share capital, issued for cash	25,955,202	488,715
Repurchase of share capital	-	-
	<u>25,548,426</u>	<u>225,323</u>
Investing Activities		
Purchase of capital assets	(9,400,698)	(1,526,398)
Increase in other assets	(405,673)	(61,482)
	<u>(9,806,371)</u>	<u>(1,587,880)</u>
Increase (Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	10,645,218	(7,821,987)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	<u>12,586,353</u>	<u>19,267,639</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	<u>\$ 23,231,571</u>	<u>\$ 11,445,652</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Supplementary disclosure of cash flow information:

Cash paid for:

Interest paid	18,090	2,185
Income taxes paid	3,970,000	-

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (UNAUDITED)

1. Basis of Presentation:

These consolidated interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial statements and accordingly, do not include all disclosures required for annual financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments, including reclassifications and normal recurring adjustments necessary to present fairly the financial position, results of operations and retained earnings (deficit), and cash flows at March 31, 2004 and for all periods presented, have been made. Interim results are not necessarily indicative of the results for a full year.

These consolidated interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the December 31, 2003 annual financial statements and notes thereto included in the 2003 Annual Report.

2. Change in accounting policies:

These consolidated interim financial statements follow the same accounting policies and methods of application as our annual consolidated financial statements, except for the following:

Effective January 1, 2004, the Company adopted the amended recommendations of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants ("CICA") for accounting for stock-based compensation. The amended standard requires recognition of an estimate of the fair value of stock-based awards in earnings. Previously, the Company provided note disclosure of pro forma net income as if a fair value based method had been used.

The amended recommendations have been applied retroactively, with restatement of prior periods. The restatement at January 1, 2004 resulted in an increase to share capital at December 31, 2003 of \$493,601 (2002 - \$4,498), contributed surplus of \$1,201,776 (2002 - \$492,077) and a decrease to retained earnings of \$1,695,377 (2002 - \$496,575). The adjustments represent the total compensation expense which would have been recorded had a fair value based method been used for stock options granted after January 1, 2002 and adjustments for exercised options. Compensation expense related to stock options for the three months ended March 31, 2004 is \$169,059 (March 31, 2003 - \$180,304).

	As previously Reported	Adjustment	Restated
As at December 31, 2002:			
Retained Earnings	\$11,621,859	(\$496,575)	\$11,125,284
Share Capital	2,388,2001	4,498	23,886,499
Contributed Surplus	-	492,077	492,077
As at December 31, 2003:			
Retained Earnings	30,994,120	(1,695,377)	29,298,743
Share Capital	27,903,869	493,601	28,397,470
Contributed Surplus	-	1,201,776	1,201,776
3 months ended March 31, 2003:			
Admin. and business development	1,789,325	180,304	1,969,629
Net Earnings	3,094,697	(180,304)	2,914,393
Basic earnings per share		0.19	0.18
Fully diluted earnings per share		0.18	0.17

3. Share capital:

a. The issued share capital of the Company is as follows:

	Common	Amount
Balance at December 31, 2003	17,145,789	(Restated - Note 2) \$ 28,397,470
Issued during the three months ended March 31, 2004 for:		
Exercise of options for cash	159,950	1,353,735
Stock-based compensation related to exercise of options		103,318
Shares issued for Private Placement	1,000,000	26,000,000
	18,305,739	55,854,523
Share issuance cost		(1,398,533)
Future income tax recovery		469,315
Balance at March 31, 2004	18,305,739	\$ 54,925,305

b. Stock option activity for the three months ended March 31, 2004 is as follows:

	Shares
Outstanding, December 31, 2003	1,120,602
Exercised	(159,950)
Outstanding, March 31, 2004	960,652

4. Financial Statement Review:

An Interim review of the Company's financial statements has been performed by KPMG.