

## **Bennett Environmental Inc. Reports First Quarter 2001 Profit**

OAKVILLE ONTARIO, May 23, 2001 – Bennett Environmental Inc. a North American leader in the thermal treatment of contaminated soils, announces a profit of \$68,890 for the first quarter of 2001 on revenues of \$2,929,841. This compares to a loss (\$461,446) on \$1,063,893 on revenues for the same period in 2000.

“I am glad to be able to report a profit in the quarter”, said Peter Richardson, President of Bennett Environmental. “This is tangible proof that our company has turned the corner on securing contracts, our increased focus on generating sales opportunities is showing positive results. We expect to show significant quarter over quarter growth in both revenues and earnings as we move throughout this year and into 2002”. “This will be the best revenue year in our history with projected sales of around \$25 million. Next year will be even better”, said John Bennett, the company’s CEO.

As previously reported in the May 16, 2001 press release, Bennett Environmental Inc. has been awarded several major contracts worth \$38 million for the treatment of contaminated soil. One contract worth \$25.2 million, has now received regulatory approval and shipments are currently underway for treatment at our facilities in St. Amboise Quebec. In addition, the company has been notified that it is the lowest bidder on projects worth \$12 million and is in discussions with customers to contract these projects. Treatment of soil from these contracts will commence in Q2 2001 and extend into the first half of 2002.

### **Results of Operations**

Bennett Environmental had a profit of \$68,890 or \$0.01 per share versus a loss of (\$461,446) or (\$0.04) per share in the corresponding period last year. The company generated revenue of \$2,968,013 in Q1 2001, up sharply from the same period a year ago.

The Company’s operating costs of \$1,600,144 reflect the higher capacity utilization in Q1 2001 versus that of the prior year. Foreign exchange loss of \$288,767 in the quarter is due to the impact of unfavorable exchange fluctuations on the valuation of US dollar denominated loans and foreign exchange futures contracts. As at March 31, 2001, the Canadian dollar was at a near historic low versus the US dollar and as the Canadian dollar strengthens, a foreign exchange gain should be realized in subsequent quarters.

Cash and receivables were \$6,265,891 at March 31, 2001, down from \$6,763,250 at December 31, 2000. The Company’s net working capital at March 31, 2001 was \$5,328,687 virtually unchanged from the net working capital of \$5,381,735 at December 31, 2000. The Company’s net working capital position should be sufficient to meet the Company’s obligations and capital requirements for the next twelve months. The Company has no plans to raise additional equity capital at this time.

The company purchased 35,200 shares in Q1 2001 under the terms of the Normal Course Issuer Bid on the Toronto Stock Exchange. The company had 10,051,114 shares outstanding as of March 31, 2001.

**About Bennett Environmental Inc.**

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

Bennett Environmental Inc. trades on both the Toronto Stock Exchange ("BEV"), and the Frankfurt Stock Exchange ("BEW"). For further information, please visit the BEI web site at: [www.bennettenv.com](http://www.bennettenv.com) or contact John Bennett at our Vancouver office (604) 681-8828 or Peter Richardson at our Oakville office (905) 339-1540.