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Governor Blagojevich Recognizes Illinois Businesses and Organizations for Achievements in Pollution Prevention

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Rod R. Blagojevich recognized 15 Illinois companies and organizations for significant achievements in protecting the environment and boosting the economy by naming them winners of the 2005 Governor’s Pollution Prevention Awards. The Grease Gator Aqueous Parts Washer System developed by SSI (Solvent Systems International) was one of the winners of this prestigious award.

“These companies and organizations have led the way in finding and using innovative ways of reducing waste and protecting the environment,” Gov. Blagojevich said. “They have made an ongoing commitment to pollution prevention practices that, in the long run, are good for them, their employees, their communities and all of us in Illinois. They have shown us that conserving raw materials and preventing waste and pollution helps them retain and create jobs, benefiting our state’s economy.”

The 19th annual Governor’s Pollution Prevention Awards were presented during a luncheon hosted by the Waste Management and Research Center (WMRC), a division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

“I join the Governor in applauding the accomplishments of these award winners in reducing and recycling waste to help us conserve valuable natural resources while keeping our land, air and water clean,” said IDNR Director Joel Brunsvold.

The Pollution Prevention (P2) projects recognized through the Governor’s Pollution Prevention Awards program produced millions of dollars of savings in material and disposal costs. The award winners worked to prevent hundred of tons of waste materials from being released into the environment and saved millions of gallons of waste water from being sent to treatment facilities.

“We were impressed again with the variety and quality of the projects undertaken by the winning companies,” said George Vander Velde, WMRC Director. “These business and organizations have proven that pollution prevention makes good sense for the environmental and economic health of Illinois. They have achieved their pollution prevention goals and saved millions of dollars in pollution control, waste disposal, energy and raw material costs.”

SSI, located in Elk Grove Village, IL, received one of the Governor’s Pollution Prevention awards for their Grease Gator Aqueous Parts Washer System. SSI is an expert in beneficial reuse, industrial waste recycling and pollution prevention. SSI worked with the WMRC to develop The Grease Gator, a water-based parts washer with a built-in fluid purifier. The patented Grease Gator immediately splits oil from the cleaning solution enabling quick removal of the used oil while keeping the non-hazardous cleaning solution constantly clean. It eliminates the need for solvents and slashes parts cleaning costs. It has been proven in independent tests to clean the dirtiest parts 57 percent faster than mineral spirits. The Grease Gator reduces volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions by 99.5% compared with mineral spirits (VOCs facilitate the creation of greenhouse gases). Also the Grease Gator will eliminate 1,000 pounds of organic waste per year for each mineral spirits parts washer replaced. The Grease Gator also makes oil recovery easy during the cleaning process so customers can use the recovered oil as a heating oil replacement or for resale and recycling.