

PRESS RELEASES

Wellman, Inc. Announces the Successful Start-Up of Its New PET Resin Line at Pearl River

June 8, 2006, Shrewsbury, NJ – Wellman, Inc. (NYSE: WLM) today announced the successful start-up of its new PET resin line at its Pearl River facility located in Hancock County, Mississippi. The new PET resin line, which has a stated annual capacity of approximately 300 million pounds, began initial shipments of first quality resin to customers in early June.

Tom Duff, Wellman's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, stated, "The start-up of our new PET resin line reaffirms our commitment to meet the rapidly growing demand for high quality resin. We are very pleased with the smooth start-up of this production line which we owe to the hard work and dedication of our employees, especially in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina."

"The new line at Pearl River will expand production of Wellman's high quality PermaClear® PET resin," said Michael Dewsbury, Vice President, U.S. PET Resins. "This new capacity will allow Wellman to maintain its leadership position and provide its customers with superior and innovative products and unparalleled technical service"

This expansion increases Wellman's PET resin capacity at its Pearl River facility to approximately 860 million pounds and increases its total U.S. PET resin capacity to approximately 1.6 billion pounds, making Wellman the largest PET resin producer in the U.S. In addition, Wellman has approximately 120 million pounds of PET resin capacity at its Emmen facility in the Netherlands.

Wellman, Inc. manufactures and markets high-quality polyester products, including PermaClear® brand PET (polyethylene terephthalate) packaging resins and Fortrel® brand polyester fibers. We believe we are one of the world's largest PET plastic recyclers, utilizing a significant amount of recycled raw materials in our manufacturing operations.

Forward-Looking Statements

Statements contained in this release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. In addition, words such as "believes," "expects," "anticipates," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements are made as of the date hereof based upon current expectations, and we undertake no obligation to update the information contained herein. These forward-looking statements involve certain risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to: reduced raw material margins; availability and cost of raw materials; reduced sales volumes; increase in costs; polyester staple fiber, textile and PET resin imports; the actions of our competitors; the financial condition of our customers; availability of financing, changes in financial markets, interest rates, credit ratings, tax risks; environmental risks and foreign currency exchange rates; regulatory changes; U.S., European, Asian and global economic conditions; prices and volumes of PET resin imports; work stoppages; levels of production capacity and profitable operations of assets; prices of competing products; natural disasters and acts of terrorism; and maintaining the operations of our existing production facilities. Actual results may differ materially from those expressed herein. Results of operations in any past period should not be considered indicative of results to be expected in future periods. Fluctuations in operating results may result in fluctuations in the price of our common stock. For a more complete description of the prominent risks and uncertainties inherent in our business, see our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005.