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SAPPHIRE ENERGY WELCOMES NEW SENIOR DIRECTOR, DOWNSTREAM TECHNOLOGY

Veteran BP Oil Executive Sets Sights on Algae Fuel Future

SAN DIEGO, April 15, 2010 – Sapphire Energy today announced veteran oil executive Dan Sajkowski has joined the company as senior director, downstream technology. After more than 24 years with BP (Amoco), Sajkowski brings his wealth of experience in the oil and refining industry to the burgeoning field of algae-based fuel. He officially joined the company on April 1.

“We’re very fortunate to have Dan on board to drive our downstream efforts,” said Cynthia J. (CJ) Warner, president, Sapphire Energy. “Having that level of expertise in oil refining is critical as we move closer to commercializing our algae-based green crude. Because our green crude can be refined into drop-in replacement liquid transportation fuels, we take full advantage of the existing oil infrastructure, from refining through distribution – areas Dan helped define during his career with BP.”

Sajkowski spent the last five years as the business unit leader of BP’s Whiting Refinery, the 4th largest refinery in the country. In addition to operational and financial accountability for the site, he was a primary driver behind the largest capital project in the history of Indiana and the most complex project BP has ever undertaken: the \$3.8 billion modernization of the Whiting Refinery. He also served as manager of refining supply in BP’s Integrated Supply and Trading organization; as vice president, refining technology for BP’s world-wide refining system; and as a member of BP’s Group Technology Council. Prior to joining Amoco in 1986, he worked for Chevron Research Company.

Sajkowski earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan, and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University. He also completed The General Manager Program at Harvard. He has authored 17 publications in the area of heterogeneous catalysis.

About Sapphire Energy:

San Diego-based Sapphire Energy is pioneering an entirely new industry – Green Crude Production – with the potential to profoundly change America’s energy and petrochemical landscape for the better. Sapphire’s products and processes in this category differ significantly from other forms of biofuel because they are made solely from photosynthetic microorganisms (algae), using sunlight and CO₂ as

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their feedstock; are not dependent on food crops or valuable farmland; do not use potable water; do not result in biodiesel or ethanol; enhance and replace petroleum-based products; and are low carbon, renewable and scalable. Finally, Green Crude can be refined into the three most important liquid fuels used by our society: gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. The fuels meet ASTM standards and are compatible with the existing petroleum infrastructure, from refinement through distribution and the retail supply chain. In December 2009, Sapphire was awarded nearly \$104.5 million as part of President Obama's American Recovery and Investment Act and the Biorefinery Assistance Program, authorized through the 2008 Farm Bill.

For more information, please visit www.sapphireenergy.com.

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