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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Dental Associations taking a firm stand against mercury contamination

Northborough, MA — March 10, 2003 — Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, New Hampshire, Hawaii, and Louisiana are among the states where Dental Associations have formally endorsed Massachusetts company's SolmeteX™ mercury removal technology, according to SolmeteX Manager, North American Dental Sales, Al Dubé.

Mercury in discharged amalgam is one of the main culprits behind mercury contamination of our waterways. Searching for the technology that can provide a viable solution to the hazards this metal poses to the well-being of the public has become a priority for several state dental associations in the USA.

“Although dental amalgam is a safe and cost-effective restorative material, discharges of dental mercury compounds are harmful and are a significant contributor to mercury in the environment,” explains SolmeteX CEO and founder, Owen Boyd. In other words, the type of mercury present in dental fillings is not absorbed by your blood stream — but once it's been flushed down the drain from the dentist's office into the waterways, it either winds up at a sewage sludge incinerator or, in the waste water, where it is attacked by sulphur-eating bacteria, and it turns from metallic mercury into methyl mercury, and ends up eventually as part of the plankton eaten by small fish. As the chain continues, with small fish being eaten by larger ones, the toxicity of the mercury greatly increases, and so does the damage it produces to the humans who consume the fish. This process, known as biomagnification, increases the concentration of mercury by 1,000,000 times as it moves up the food chain causing damage to women of childbearing age and children. According to EPA, 44 of 50 US states have mercury alerts on water bodies and have issued warnings regarding the consumption of fish.

The SolmeteX Hg5® Amalgam Separator endorsed by Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Hawaii and Louisiana is a patent- pending device that has been certified to comply with ISO 11143, with a rating of 99.82% removal of mercury. SolmeteX has a proven track record with wastewater technology and has received an EPA Technology Innovator Award (2000).

How does the device work? “The Hg5 is now available as a comprehensive waste management system,” says Dubé, adding, “The entire process is reliable, safe, trackable, and practically foolproof— from beginning to end.” The Hg5 collects the mercury; the spent collection container is returned via FedEx® to Mercury Waste Solutions where the mercury is recycled. Dentists receive a replacement collection container every six months. Dubé summarizes, “There are no middlemen, nobody from a hazardous waste hauling company has to pick up the collection container. Someone in the office can install the replacement collection container.

The used collection container is packaged with the packaging and labeling materials we provide.”

In addition to the endorsements by Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Hawaii and Louisiana Dental Associations, SolmeteX is working closely with the other states Dental Associations to put the finishing touch on agreements with their membership, too. “SolmeteX technology is also used by Canadian dental offices, particularly in Quebec and Montreal, where there are stringent pollution laws in effect,” comments Dubé.

SolmeteX is a Massachusetts-based, privately owned company. Their core business is the development and manufacture of specialized technologies for the safe and economical removal of metal and metal complexes from water. In business since 1994, Solmetex holds numerous patents, and has been the recipient of several awards for their efforts in helping companies worldwide reduce contamination.

Applications of the SolmeteX technologies include Mercury removal from dental waste, medical waste, medical waste incinerators, clinical analyzer waste, ground water, and laboratory waste. SolmeteX technologies are also used for the removal of Arsenic from semiconductor waste and from drinking water.

SolmeteX can be found online at www.solmetex.com.