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## HOSPITAL CURES ITS OWN POWER CRISIS BY USING ALTERNATIVE FUEL - BIODIESEL

Soy-based fuel and additive provides cost efficient, clean power for St. Mary's  
Medical Center, first hospital in U.S. to test new resource

Hospital officials say experimental fuel providing cost savings of more than  
\$100,000 annually

LONG BEACH, CA (June 00, 2001) - Developing new treatments for cancer or heart disease is quite common at St. Mary's Medical Center, but their latest discovery has nothing to do with curing disease. St. Mary has become the first hospital in the U.S. to convert to a renewable power source - a blend of biodiesel (a non petroleum fuel derived from soy bean oil) and a unique additive that is saving the hospital money and improving its emission levels.

The power crisis in California has placed a growing burden on facilities that use significant amounts of grid-power, making them susceptible to rolling blackouts and increasing power costs. The hospital has begun burning the biodiesel/additive combination to power its on site generators and boilers as an alternative to natural gas and diesel fuel.

Hospital officials said the switch to the new biodiesel mixture resulted from an experiment that was conducted with Supreme Oil Co. of Long Beach.

"We knew that virtually any form of biodiesel would burn well in St. Mary's generators and boilers, but straight biodiesel has never been able to meet strict, Southern California emissions standards," said Chris

Sellers of Supreme Oil. "Our additive reduced biodiesel emissions to well below the levels for natural gas."

"After a few weeks of fine-tuning our system we are now running completely on biodiesel and our emissions are lower than they were last year when we were running the same systems on natural gas," said Mike Mathis, Director of Facilities for St. Mary's Medical Center. The new fuel/additive combination is the only biodiesel-based mixture to meet strict AQMD standards for stationary applications. "The switch to this new fuel has paid off with cost savings and emission reductions that far surpassed our expectations," Mathis added.

In addition to burning cleaner than natural gas, the new biodiesel system at St. Mary's is also less expensive. Officials say that the hospital is realizing cost savings of 150,000 per year. The biodiesel system is used to generate heat, air conditioning, steam and hot water for the main hospital and two large office buildings.

"We are very excited about the advantages this new fuel/additive combination provides in responding to our statewide energy crisis," said Tom Hadfield, President of St. Mary. "This is very promising for our colleagues facing these same challenges."

St. Mary Medical Center is a 539-bed acute care hospital in Long Beach that is owned and operated by Catholic Healthcare West.