



For Immediate Release

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NORTH WEST UPGRADING EXPANDS SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Company Appoints Vice President of Construction

Calgary, AB, January 9, 2007 – North West Upgrading Inc. (North West), a Calgary-based, privately-owned company building an independent, heavy oil upgrader in Alberta's Industrial Heartland, today announced the appointment of Mr. Alex Watson as Vice President of Construction. This appointment helps position North West to meet its 2010 start up goal, as he will contribute to the development of the overall execution strategy for North West's Upgrader in Sturgeon County.

As Vice President of Construction, Mr. Watson will participate in Contractor selection and Contract development for the EPC silos not already contracted, and in organizational development of the project as it matures to field execution and beyond. He will also lead North West's presence at the Upgrader site once the contractors are mobilized, working in close collaboration with the PMC Contractor and the North West Upgrading team.

Mr. Watson brings approximately 20 years of experience in project and construction management, operations experience, and business management in the petrochemical, fertilizer, and mining industries. In his various roles, he was Director of Projects, Project Manager, Construction Manager and General Operations Manager for various operations and projects. Most recently he was Project Manager with OPTI Canada Inc. for the OPTI Nexen Long Lake Project and prior to this, was Director of Projects for Agrium Inc. Mr. Watson has a Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

"As we continue to move closer to receiving regulatory approval and breaking ground, we are also closer to finalizing the North West Upgrading team who will ensure the Upgrader is implemented and executed flawlessly," said Gary Vassie, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of North West Upgrading. "We are pleased to welcome Mr. Watson to the leadership team and look forward to working with an individual whose experience and expertise will greatly contribute to the Upgrader's success."



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About North West Upgrading

North West Upgrading Inc. is a Calgary-based, privately-owned company committed to building an independent, heavy oil upgrader in Alberta's Industrial Heartland. The Upgrader will enhance the economic value of Alberta's bitumen and heavy oil production by producing light, low sulphur products and diluent. The Upgrader will have a total processing capacity of 231,000 barrels per day of blended feedstock (150,000 barrels per day of crude bitumen) over three phases. North West anticipates it will receive regulatory approval by mid-2007, with construction to begin immediately thereafter to achieve start up for the first phase in 2010. All three phase are expected to be operating by 2015. www.northwestupgrading.com.