



Editorial Contact:

Jennifer Peters for North West Upgrading

P: 403.537.7464

C: 403.542.6751

jpeters@brooklinepr.com

For Immediate Release

NORTH WEST UPGRADING AWARDS EDS CONTRACT TO SNC-LAVALIN

SNC-Lavalin and North West Upgrading Join Forces in Alberta's Industrial Heartland

Calgary, AB, August 8, 2006 – North West Upgrading (North West), a Calgary-based, privately-owned company committed to building an independent, heavy oil upgrader in Alberta's Industrial Heartland, today announced that SNC-Lavalin (TSX: SNC) was awarded the contract to complete engineering design specifications (EDS) for North West's proposed bitumen upgrader in Sturgeon County.

SNC-Lavalin will begin the engineering design specifications immediately and is to be finished by mid-2007. The completion at such time enables North West to maintain its current schedule for the first phase of the Upgrader to be operational in 2010.

"The engineering design specification work is a critical component for the North West Upgrader as it sets the engineering foundation for the entire operation," said Robert Pearce, President and CEO of North West Upgrading. "SNC-Lavalin is one of the world's most highly capable and respected engineering companies. We are pleased to have them continue with the North West team as we work together to better service Alberta's vast oil sands development."

"This award demonstrates SNC-Lavalin's commitment to processing the bitumen and heavy oil production from the vast oil sands deposits in Alberta, and demonstrates the downstream and front end process capabilities of our team," said Jean Beaudoin, Executive Vice-President, SNC-Lavalin Group Inc. "We are particularly pleased with this project, and the opportunity to carry out future activities associated with its development."



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 after to achieve start up for the first phase in early 2010. All three phases are expected to be operating by 2015. Please visit www.northwestupgrading.com for more information.