

Monday, November 29, 2010

COLORADO CENTER FOR BIOREFINING AND BIOFUELS WELCOMES INTERIM NREL SITE DIRECTOR, DR. JOSEPH M. (MIKE) CLEARY

A joint renewable energy center of the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU), Colorado State University (CSU), Colorado School of Mines (Mines), the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) welcomes Dr. Joseph M. (Mike) Cleary to the Colorado Center for Biorefining and Biofuels; he will be serving as Interim NREL Site Director for C2B2.

Cleary is the Director of the National Bioenergy Center (NBC) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado. He joined NREL in October 2007 and is responsible for NREL's research programs in bioenergy, with specific emphasis on biofuels conversion technologies. Dr. Cleary has experience in research and management in the fields of life sciences and industrial biotechnology, including extensive industrial experience, lab-to-pilot scale-up and the commercialization of products in microbial biochemistry, fermentation, and microbiology.

"I look forward to working with the C2B2 team to accomplish its mission and mandate," says Cleary. "I hope that I can provide the needed continuity as NREL's Site Director for C2B2." In addition to his work with C2B2, Cleary is responsible for managing the strategic research direction for the NBC, including more than 130 full time research and support staff, postdoctoral researchers, and undergraduate interns. Cleary oversees the human and facilities resources dedicated to the DOE Office of the Biomass Program core research program, environmental safety and health programs and policies, and coordinates technical partnership agreements with industry. Mike's personal research interests include: biochemical and thermochemical conversion of biomass to biofuels; fermentation scale up; microbial strain metabolic engineering; molecular genetics; microbial physiology; and applied bioinformatics. Cleary received his Ph.D. in Biology (Molecular Genetics) from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Mike will be aiding C2B2 in the coordination of center research and education activities at the NREL site. “We are very excited to have Mike join the C2B2 Executive Board of Directors. He is already familiar with the many of C2B2’s activities,” says C2B2 executive director Alan Weimer. “Mike will be fulfilling a vital role at C2B2 and we expect him to be a valuable resource at NREL for C2B2 sponsors, principal investigators and researchers moving forward.”

C2B2 was founded in March 2007, as the first research center of the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory. The Collaboratory is a consortium of CU-Boulder, CSU, Mines and NREL, facilitating cooperative research among the universities, public agencies and industry partners to develop renewable energy products and technologies for rapid transfer to the marketplace. Collaboratory centers support economic growth in renewable energy industries and work to educate existing professionals, as well as future scientists, engineers, and policy makers. The Collaboratory executive director is David Hiller.

Contact C2B2 staff and site directors with questions: Frannie Ray-Earle, CU-Boulder, (303) 492-7736, C2B2@colorado.edu; Will Medlin, CU-Boulder, (303) 492-2418, will.medlin@colorado.edu; Ken Reardon, CSU, (970) 491-6505, kenneth.reardon@colostate.edu; John Dorgan, Mines, (303) 273-3539, jdorgan@mines.edu; and Mike Cleary, NREL, (303) 384-6825, mike.cleary@nrel.gov. Learn more about C2B2 online: www.C2B2web.org.

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