



## B9 Emerald FRAQ™ Sets New Standard For Environmentally Benign Fracturing Fluids

*High performance, low toxicity and biodegradability make new Baker Oil Tools fracturing fluid ideal for offshore use*

HOUSTON, TEXAS (March 10, 2004) - Starting with a basic guar polymer similar to that used as a thickening agent for foods such as hot sauce and ice cream, Baker Oil Tools has developed B9 Emerald FRAQ™ fluid, the first fracturing fluid to combine superior performance with benign environmental effects such as low toxicity and biodegradability. As a result, B9 Emerald FRAQ fluid is ideal for offshore use.

B9 Emerald FRAQ meets and exceeds current Gulf of Mexico offshore permitted waste fluid discharge regulations for 'well treatment fluid' standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, specified in the Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 435.

With less than 29 mg/l of hexane extractable material, HEM, oil and grease content, it satisfies the EPA's definition of "oil and gas free" for well treating fluids. The EPA regulations do not establish a discharge permit standard for toxicity for well treatment fluids. However, with the B9 Emerald FRAQ fluid systems very low toxicity (less than 3%) the fluid also meets and exceeds the 40 CFR Part 435 standards set for drilling fluids.

"B9 Emerald FRAQ fluid has another advantage in that it biodegrades to more than 60% in 28 days as tested by the OECD guidelines, therefore, meeting or exceeding this standard. The EPA regulatory classifications for offshore well treatment fluids do not specify a toxicity level or a requirement to be biodegradable, but our clients want to satisfy both the letter and the spirit of the regulations and we want to help them accomplish that," said Rudy de Grood, Baker Oil Tools' Fluids Pumping Services Product Line Manager. De Grood added that Baker also wanted a fluid that would enhance performance without incurring incremental costs.

Satisfying all of these criteria meant going outside the bounds of conventional breaker technology and developing a completely new technology based on readily available chemicals found in everyday foods and cosmetics. The result is the first fracturing fluid to successfully combine superior performance with benign environmental effects.

By using B9 Emerald FRAQ, offshore operators can substantially reduce the environmental impact of their frac pack completion operations. Equally important, the ability to discharge fluid under the well's site-specific discharge permit reduces disposal costs and risks associated with handling and transporting fluids.

