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**To Whom It May Concern:**

**Naoetsu Cellulosic Plant Explosion Report as of April 18**

**April 18, 2007**

We would like to provide you with an updated report on the Naoetsu Cellulosic Plant which experienced an explosion accident on March 20. Any further information will be posted on our web-site at [www.metolose.jp](http://www.metolose.jp)

We apologize for any inconvenience you may have experienced because of this accident.

Concerning an expected timing of the resumption of plant operation, please be informed of the current situation as of today, as follows:

- (1) As we previously reported on April 10, we have been proceeding with consideration on any possible action that we can take for assessment under the situation.
- (2) According to the best scenario at present, our target-resumption-timing of some facilities would be by the end of the next month, subject to the decision and the result on several issues, such as progress of investigation of accident-cause(s), permission from the relevant authorities to our planned-countermeasure of safety, explanation to the neighboring residence and their acceptance, inspection and approval of new facilities and so on. However, other heavily damaged facilities are not this case.

When we can have a further clear situation on the resumption of plant operation, we shall newly inform you of it.

Again, we apologize sincerely for the accident and for any inconvenience it may cause you.

**Very truly yours,**

**Junichi Watanabe**

**Executive Officer, General Manager**

**Cellulose & Pharmaceutical Excipients Dept.**