

## **PinnacleAIS CEO Ryan Sitton Serves as Expert Witness in Court Case Over OSHA NEP Citations**

December 3, 2009 – Houston, TX – PinnacleAIS, the leading provider of services and technology, specializing in improved asset integrity for the refining and chemical industries, announced today that its CEO, Ryan Sitton, has been selected as an expert witness in legal proceedings surrounding the OSHA citations against a major US refinery. Mr. Sitton will be providing testimony around mechanical integrity codes and standards and their application to process equipment. The refinery is represented by the law firm of ArentFox and lead counsel Mark Dreux, a nationally recognized expert in OSHA cases.

“I am proud to represent this refinery and our industry in this case,” said Mr. Sitton. “Often, these regulatory citations, while levied with good intent, do not technically align with industry codes and standards or engineering best practice. When regulations are misapplied or good engineering practice is misconstrued, integrity programs can become focused on simply dealing with citations rather than ensuring the integrity of process equipment. I am involved to help make sure that the refinery is being evaluated fairly.”

“I am pleased to have Mr. Sitton as a part of our team in this case,” said Mr. Dreux. “Not only is he one of the leading independent experts on Mechanical Integrity, but he also has an excellent ability to break down highly technical codes, standards, and regulations into simpler concepts that a non-technical individual can understand. This is essential to ensuring that everyone involved in the trial can effectively determine which statutes, regulations, and citations are truly applicable.”

While no further details on Mr. Sitton’s involvement in the case were provided by Pinnacle, the company did announce that Mr. Sitton has been engaged by a number of other facilities to provide support in preparing for OSHA NEP audits or to respond to the results from those audits. Although all OSHA proceedings and citations are a matter of public record, the specifics of the case are not being discussed by PinnacleAIS or ArentFox.

### **The PinnacleAIS Solution**

PinnacleAIS provides its customers with unique, integrated technologies and services for asset integrity, reducing the need to hire multiple contractors by streamlining projects to ensure that all initiatives are completed at the same time. The company’s integrated solutions span four key areas: Mechanical Integrity, Process and Operational Integrity, Compliance/Process Safety Management and Business Improvement, which can be interwoven to provide a complete model that fully optimizes asset integrity.

PinnacleAIS provides the following solutions for its customers:

- Ensures the most strategic use of inspection resources
- Guarantees compliance with state and federal regulations or codes
- Assesses degraded equipment and reports on the remaining useful life of each asset
- Evaluates safety and minimizes business risks associated with asset integrity
- Develops programs that reduce costs associated with managing the reliability of assets
- Provides unsurpassed customer service

### **About PinnacleAIS**

Based in Houston, TX, PinnacleAIS is a leading technology and services provider, specializing in wholesale improvements in asset integrity for the petroleum and chemical processing industry. Through innovative technology and world class services, PinnacleAIS offers a unique approach to asset integrity, helping operating companies realize substantial improvements in compliance and safety while simultaneously reducing costs and business risks. PinnacleAIS is a member of numerous trade organizations including The American Petroleum Institute (API).

PinnacleAIS was founded in 2006 and is privately held.