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RAINA INC. COMMITS \$2 MILLION TO POLLUTION-ABATEMENT PROGRAM

Blackrock, Iowa's largest single employer, Raina Inc., committed an additional \$2 million for its pollution-abatement program at the August 11 Blackrock City Council meeting.

The program goes into effect in October, employing 100 additional employees. The money is geared toward new equipment – two globe refractors and four hyperventilation systems – that purifies waste before it enters the air and water. Raina Inc. projects “real progress in terms of clean water and clean air” within two years. This new commitment is in addition to the \$5.3 million Raina Inc. has spent on past environmental programs. Raina Inc. is also the recipient of the Environmental Protection Agency Presidential Award for its concern about pollution abatement.

The new manager of the Blackrock plant, Leslie Sludge, previously managed the Fetid Reservoir plant in New Hampshire, taking it from being the most polluted plant to what the EPA called one of the cleanest. Sludge said, “Raina Inc. has decided to move ahead with this program at this time because of its long-standing responsibility for keeping the Blackrock environment clean and in response to growing community concern over achieving the objective.” Sludge was hired two months ago to replace the previous manager who did not live up to Raina Inc.'s environmental standards.

In addition to its environmental actions, the Blackrock plant has also built ramps and similar equipment to become more accessible for the 100 current employees with disabilities.

ABOUT RAINA INC. – The Blackrock Raina carborundum plant is the nation’s largest supplier of sandpaper and grinding materials. Founded in 1900, the plant has grown from a small business of 13 people working in a converted garage to a large manufacturing company that employees 10,000 people and has over 14 acres of land.

For additional information on Raina Inc.’s pollution-abatement program, contact Ishika Muchhal or visit www.rainainc.com.

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