



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Pinnacle Renewable Energy updates Entwistle facility incident

**VANCOUVER, Feb. 22, 2019** – The temporary suspension of operations continues at Pinnacle Renewable Energy’s wood pellet production facility in Entwistle, Alberta following a fire and explosion on Monday afternoon, February 11th that damaged the dryer area.

One contractor remains in hospital and six employees and five contractors were treated for minor injuries as a result of the accident. The cause of the incident is unknown and a formal investigation is still underway by Alberta Labour Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). The site has been released back to Pinnacle.

All employees’ wages and benefits will continue during the investigative process. Production from dry fibre is expected to resume in March and a decision will be made on when full production at the facility will resume following the outcome of the investigation.

“At Pinnacle, safety is a core value. We are committed to providing a safe environment for our staff, contractors and the people who live nearby in the community,” says Leroy Reitsma, President and Chief Operating Officer. “We are committed to providing a safe work place that reflects our care for staff and contractors.”

#### **What Pinnacle is doing while the plant is shut down:**

- Engaged a professional critical incident counsellor who is on site offering personalized one-on-one counselling, group sessions and home visits
- Continue wages and benefits for all employees as we work through the investigation
- Held meetings with our employees last week to provide an update as to the status of injured workers, our commitment to safety, cooperation with the investigation process and support for employees through this incident
- Meetings were led by Rob McCurdy, CEO; Leroy Reitsma, President and COO; Scott Bax, SVP of Operations and Steven Mueller, Director of Health and Safety. All were available for one-on-one meetings after the group sessions.

“Over the coming days and weeks, we will work with the Entwistle team, as well as Alberta OHS and the Chief Fire Marshal of Parkland County to ensure a full understanding of the factors that contributed to this event and the course of action required to move forward in a way that reflects our values,” says Leroy Reitsma.

## **About Pinnacle**

Pinnacle is a rapidly growing industrial wood pellet manufacturer and distributor and the third largest producer in the world. The Company produces sustainable fuel for renewable electricity generation in the form of industrial wood pellets. This fuel is used by large-scale thermal power generators as a greener alternative to produce reliable baseload renewable power. Pinnacle is a trusted supplier to its customers, who require reliable, high-quality fuel supply to maximize utilization of their facilities. Pinnacle takes pride in its industry leading safety practices. The Company operates eight industrial wood pellet production facilities in western Canada and one in Alabama, and owns a port terminal in Prince Rupert, B.C.

### **For more information:**

Ross Sullivan  
Peak Communicators  
Ph: 1-604-689-5559  
Cell: 1-604-802-7139  
[rsullivan@peakco.com](mailto:rsullivan@peakco.com)