



Unprecedented Fuel Costs Drive Price Increase Sandersville, Georgia, September 28, 2005

Mr. Eric Tillirson, Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Thiele Kaolin Company, announced that Thiele Kaolin Company will implement a price increase on kaolin products, effective November 1, 2005. Prices will increase by as much as 20%, depending on the grade of kaolin and contractual agreements.

Mr. Tillirson cited continuing increases in mining and processing costs associated with unprecedented increases in energy costs as the driving force behind the price increase. Rising energy costs have also driven the costs of chemicals and other raw materials up dramatically. "Over the past several years, Thiele has implemented various programs to reduce costs including workforce reductions, outsourcing of services and capital improvements to enhance energy efficiency. Although Thiele has absorbed a significant portion of these costs in the past, we are now forced to pass these costs along to our customers."

Thiele Kaolin Company is one of the world's leading sources of processed kaolin pigments. Thiele mines, processes, blends and delivers the full spectrum of kaolin coating and filler pigments, tailored to meet the specific needs of individual applications. Thiele activities are ISO 9001:2000 certified—an emphasis on quality has been a company tradition for more than five decades.

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