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Pacific Ethanol, Inc.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PACIFIC ETHANOL ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF  
JOHN T. MILLER AS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

**NAMES CHRISTOPHER W. WRIGHT AS GENERAL COUNSEL**

June 26, 2006, – Fresno, CA – Pacific Ethanol, Inc. (NASDAQ:PEIX) today announced the appointment of John T. Miller as Chief Operating Officer, effective today. The Company also announced the appointment of Christopher W. Wright as General Counsel, effective today.

Mr. Miller comes to Pacific Ethanol with over two decades of senior management and operating experience in the independent power sector, most recently with Calpine Corporation, where he was Senior Vice President of Central Services. Since his arrival at Calpine in 2001, Mr. Miller managed the build-out of more than 20 major power projects valued at over \$6 billion, oversaw the key human resources and safety programs for Calpine and subsequently led Calpine's strategy to centralize its power plant and corporate activities.

Prior to his tenure at Calpine, Mr. Miller served as president of Thermo Electron's Thermo Ecotek division, where he directed Thermo Electron's expansion of its independent power business to 10 operating plants totaling 482 megawatts in the US, Germany and the Czech Republic. He also represented Thermo Electron in managing the division's sale to AES Corporation.

A US Navy veteran, he also served as president of Pacificorp's Pacific Generation subsidiary, where he directed operation and maintenance, project construction and business development activities. Chairman Bill Jones noted that, "Pacific Ethanol's board has moved quickly to fill this key position, and we are delighted to have John Miller's talent and expertise at this crucial growth phase for the Company."

CEO Neil Koehler added, "John's outstanding record of strategic and operational expertise in building large and successful energy concerns is a perfect match for Pacific Ethanol, as the Company proceeds with an ambitious program of rapid plant construction and managing the growth of a leading company in the burgeoning alternative fuels industry. His demonstrated expertise in both strategic planning and project construction will be a key asset to our company in the years ahead."

The Company further added to the depth of management experience with the appointment of Christopher W. Wright as General Counsel. Mr. Wright, a senior lawyer and manager with over 23 years of experience, was formerly a partner with the global law firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, and before that served as Partner-in-Charge of the Pacific Northwest office of Cooley Godward, a leading Silicon Valley-based law firm. His career has involved advising boards of directors on compliance, securities matters and strategic transactions, with a particular focus on guiding the development of fast growing companies. He has acted as general counsel for



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numerous technology enterprises in all aspects of corporate development, including fund-raising, business and technology acquisitions, mergers and strategic alliances.

Speaking about the appointment of Mr. Wright, CEO Neil Koehler commented, "Christopher is a great addition to the team here at Pacific Ethanol and he will assist us greatly as we continue to grow our company. His broad range of management experience, combined with his legal expertise in all aspects of business development will prove invaluable."

**About Pacific Ethanol, Inc.**

Pacific Ethanol has two ethanol plants currently under construction, one in Madera County, CA and one in Boardman, OR and recently completed equity funding of \$138 million to provide the Company with sufficient cash to both accelerate its stated goal of completing five ethanol production facilities totaling 220 million gallons per year by the end of 2008 and its plans to complete additional ethanol production facilities, increasing total nameplate capacity to 420 million gallons per year by the end of 2010.

**Safe Harbor Statement Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995**

With the exception of historical information, the matters discussed in this press release are forward-looking statements that involve a number of risks and uncertainties. The actual future results of Pacific Ethanol could differ from those statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, the ability of Pacific Ethanol to successfully capitalize on its internal growth initiatives; the price of ethanol relative to the price of gasoline; and those factors contained in the "Risk Factors" section of Pacific Ethanol's Form S-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 23, 2006.