



For Immediate Release
Monday, February 2, 2009

Operations Begin at Poland Spring's New Kingfield Bottling Facility

*Governor John Baldacci, state and community leaders,
affirm commitment to helping Poland Spring grow in Maine*

KINGFIELD, Maine – Poland Spring Water Company hosted a ribbon cutting event today to officially mark the start of full commercial operations at their newest bottling facility in Kingfield, Maine. “We are here today thanks to leadership in Kingfield and the working relationship we’ve built over the past three years. This is your plant, Kingfield!” said Tom Brennan, Poland Spring Natural Resource Manager Northeast.

The new plant, which has already put 40 local people to work, represents an initial Poland Spring investment of over \$60 million. This state-of-the-art facility, which is part of a 350-acre site just south of town on Route 27, is the size of 4 ½ football fields. Like all of Poland Spring’s newest construction, the Kingfield plant is built to be LEED-Certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED standards help increase energy and water efficiency, and reduce the environmental impact of its facilities. Poland Spring bottles will be made on site to eliminate trucking in empty bottles - and filled with spring water from Bradbury Spring in Kingfield and two other nearby springs.

On hand to celebrate were Governor John Baldacci, DECD Commissioner John Richardson, representatives from all four Congressional Offices, and many Kingfield officials and community leaders who lauded Poland Spring’s contribution to Maine’s economy and the company’s efforts to create well paying manufacturing jobs in rural areas where they’re needed most.

Governor Baldacci, who cut the ribbon at today’s ceremony, said, “Maine celebrates its 160-year relationship with Poland Spring. We are pleased that Poland Spring is investing more than \$60 million in rural Franklin County and creating a world-class LEED-certified plant with 40 new local employees – all in the midst of a global economic recession. We should continue to support good environmental and corporate citizens like Poland Spring by helping them grow their business right here in Maine.”

In addition to the capital investment in the Kingfield Plant, \$19 million of which was spent with local contractors, Poland Spring has also hired 40 new employees for the plant’s startup and will increase staff based on production needs. The plant also will continue to rely on a range of local vendors and service providers.

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In late 2006, after a thorough public permitting process, Poland Spring began construction on the two-line water bottling plant in Kingfield. The company abided by the requests and requirements of local, state and federal authorities, including the Kingfield Planning Board, Board of Selectmen and the Kingfield Water District, as well as Maine's Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Transportation. Construction was completed in 2008 and the plant was staffed and fully operational this month.

Tom Brennan thanked the town of Kingfield and the people of Franklin County for their warm welcome. "Since Poland Spring started the planning and permitting process in 2004 for the Kingfield bottling plant, we have focused on maintaining an open, positive dialogue with the local community. We are grateful for the thoughtful, thorough and ultimately welcoming response we've received to our efforts and look forward to our long-term role as a member of the Kingfield community."

John Dill, Kingfield Selectman, lauded Poland Spring's ability to work hand in hand with town officials and the local community to make the new Kingfield facility a reality.

"From day one, Poland Spring has treated town officials and our community with respect. Poland Spring worked to get the community's input and involvement at every step of the permitting process. The trust that the company has built with our town was clear last February when Poland Spring hosted an Open House here at the plant for members of the public. Hundreds of people showed up to see this plant and support Poland Spring. They've done a lot to support our local economy and I'm proud to be here today to mark the official start of business."

FMI: <http://www.polandspringme.com/kingfield/>

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Since 1845, Poland Spring has been using a rapidly renewable resource in Maine to make the most popular spring water brand in the United States. Poland Spring's 800 Maine employees bottle the healthiest of beverages in lightweight, recyclable containers and have achieved a 91% recycling rate at their bottling plants. Today, Poland Spring:

- *Has invested \$439 million in capital in Maine since 1992*
- *Provides about \$40 million to the economy in annual payroll*
- *Spends over \$65 million directly with Maine vendors*
- *Has invested over \$2.5 million in community giving since 2000 to support schools, fire and rescue, environmental conservation, and many local and statewide causes.*

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