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### CONTINUOUS PRESSURE AND VACUUM FILTRATION AND WASHING OF ORGANIC CELLULOSE AND BIOMASS PRODUCTS

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#### ABSTRACT

The processing of organic, cellulose-containing materials has been around for many years as engineers have developed clever chemistry or cultivated natural conversion processes to make products with characteristics, which were not naturally available.

Currently, due to high oil prices along with the passage of the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) calling for significant increase in ethanol usage nationwide from both grain based and cellulosic based sources, there is tremendous interest in developing efficient, cost-effective manufacturing processes to produce energy from cellulosic feed stocks.

This article will use actual process data to highlight the choice of continuous pressure or continuous vacuum filtration and cake washing techniques for a newly developed bioprocess operation using a biomass feedstock material.

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#### Bio

Barry A. Perlmutter is currently President and Managing Director of BHS-Filtration Inc., a subsidiary of BHS-Sonthofen GmbH. BHS is a manufacturer of thin-cake filtration, washing and drying technologies. Barry has over 27 years of engineering and technical business marketing experience in the field of solid-liquid separation including filtration and centrifugation and process drying. He has published and lectured extensively worldwide on the theory and applications for the chemical, pharmaceutical and energy / environmental industries and has been responsible for introducing and creating growth for many European companies and technologies into the marketplace. He received a BS degree in Chemistry from Albany State University, NY, MS degree from the School of Engineering, Washington University, St. Louis and an MBA from the University of Illinois. Barry served on the Board of Directors of the American Filtration and Separations Society (AFS) and is a member of several internationally recognized societies.