IPE Oil-Trading Disrupted by Environmental Protest
(Update1)

Feb. 16 (Bloomberg) -- International Petroleum Exchange floor trading of oil futures contracts was disrupted and delayed by environmental protesters who entered the London exchange, brokers and exchange officials said.

Man Financial and Refco brokers confirmed that the 2 p.m. start of pit trading was delayed, though the IPE's all-day electronic trading system was unaffected. Some protesters attempted to chain themselves to building fixtures.

IPE will start floor trading at 3:10 p.m. London time, an IPE official said.

Some 35 protesters entered the exchange building at St. Katherine's Dock to mark the formal start today of the Kyoto Protocol, Anita Goldsmith, a climate campaigner with environmental lobby group Greenpeace, said by telephone.

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