

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Rock Falls Power Plant Making Progress

June 12, 2010 - Rock Falls, IL – One of the newest companies with plans to build in Rock Falls is making good progress, says Sandy Henrekin, Executive Director of the Rock Falls Community Development Corporation. BioPro Power™ plans to build a 25MW power plant that will provide electricity for 19,000 to 20,000 homes. Members of the BioPro Power™ team have been in the Rock Falls area for several months working out details for this biomass power plant.

Annually (green) renewable fuel

The fuel for the power plant will be a green, annually renewable, energy source which is locally grown corn stover. Corn stover is the above-ground biomass after the corn grain is harvested. BioPro Power's plan provides participating farmers with an additional revenue stream and an opportunity to increase corn yields within one year. The Rock Falls 25 MW power plant is scheduled for completion the fall of 2011. It will also offer full-time employment for about 30 people, plus 40 seasonal jobs. There will be nearly 200 construction jobs for building the plant.

The company has a 27-acre site in the Rock Falls Industrial Park under option at 1902 McNeil Road and is on-track for a September/October 2010 groundbreaking. The air permit has been secured from the Illinois EPA. The emissions from the plant will be no greater than the CO² emitted from the decomposition process when all of the stover is left on top of the ground. Thus, the project's footprint is carbon neutral.

Financial benefits to farmers

By participating as a corn stover provider, the farmer will receive economic benefits in the form of increased corn yields and residue management and reduced tillage expenses totaling an estimated \$39 - \$64, says Kim Spangler, an agronomist and consulting member of the BioPro Power team. After the farmer harvests their corn grain, BioPro Power will conduct the corn stover harvest and will pay all corn stover harvesting and delivery costs. "The farmer is paid an access fee in cash which is included in the \$39 - \$64 dollar financial benefit; this makes a

compelling reason for farmers to join the program.” Farmers are not asked to make a cash investment in the plant. Noted agronomist Emerson Nafziger, from the University of Illinois, has conducted research that demonstrates the financial gains from removing some corn stover in a corn-on-corn farming operation.

HEL farmland will also qualify

Farmers interested in no-till corn on corn, in highly erodible acres, will also qualify for this corn stover management program. “This will be determined on a field-by-field basis. District soil conservationists agreed this is a viable option for some situations (up to C slopes). The field plans need prior approval from your District Conservationist,” adds Spangler.

Next step for the one-of-a-kind energy plant

Communicating the benefits of the program to area corn farmers is an ongoing effort. The company has enlisted the aid of Keith Zoeller of Zoeller Ag Services in Sterling (815-626-2437), Joe McConville, (815-539-5673), and Marty McConville (815-712-1709) of McConville Realty in Mendota to identify farmers interested in the residue (stover) management program.

Informational meetings, direct contact with farmers and several direct mail programs are underway. Farmers interested in learning more can also contact Sandy Henrekin, Executive Director of RFCDC (815-626-8053).

“BioPro Rock Falls is an exciting, innovative project, and we welcome BioPro Power to Rock Falls,” says Henrekin. “ The BioPro Power team has been extremely diligent in their development work over the past two years and we are very much looking forward to the ground breaking. The private investment into our community along with the job creation comes at a crucial time for our local economy. This project is a win-win for all of us.

About BioPro Power™

BioPro Power is a biomass power plant development and operating company with an nine member management team. The corporate offices are located in St. Paul, Minnesota and the project management office is in Portland, Oregon. Team members reside in Iowa, Minnesota, Colorado, and Oregon. BioPro Rock Falls, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of BioPro Power. When complete, the facility will combust corn stover from area farms to generate 25 megawatts of clean, green, renewable energy.