BIOFUEL FACILITIES IN LOUISIANA

by Bryan Crouch, Engineer

Currently, there is only a small amount of biofuel production in Louisiana; however, several production facilities are either in the planning stages or under construction. The table below lists the operating, under construction, and planned biofuel production facilities in the state. More details about each facility are given after the table.

Biofuel Production Facilities in Louisiana

Company	Location	Product	Feedstock	Capacity (million gpy)	Status
Allegro Biodiesel Corporation	Pollock	Biodiesel	Soybean oil	12	Operating
Bionol Lake Providence LLC	Lake Providence	Ethanol	Corn	108	Under construction
Dynamic Fuels LLC	Geismer	Renewable diesel	Animal fat	75	Construction to begin in 2008
Greater Baton Rouge Ethanol LLC	Port Allen	Ethanol	Corn	100	Under construction
Green Earth Fuels of New Orleans LLC	Harvey	Biodiesel	Undecided	86	Construction not begun
Louisiana Green Fuels LLC	Lacassine	Ethanol	Sugar cane, sweet sorghum	22	Construction to begin early 2008
Renewable Energy Group Inc	St. Rose	Biodiesel	Soybean oil	60	Under construction
South Louisiana Ethanol LLC	Belle Chase	Ethanol	Corn	65	Construction on hold
Tiger State Ethanol LLC	Convent	Ethanol	Corn	110	Construction not begun
Tiger State Ethanol LLC	Lake Providence	Ethanol	Corn	110	Construction not begun
Verenium Corporation	Jennings	Ethanol	Biomass	Pilot scale	Operating
Verenium Corporation	Jennings	Ethanol	Bagasse, energy cane	1.4	Under construction

Allegro Biodiesel in central Louisiana is the only operating biodiesel plant in the state. The plant began production in April 2006 and is currently producing about 4 million gallons per year (gpy) with an estimated capacity of 12 million gpy. Their primary feedstock is soybean oil.

Bionol Lake Providence, a subsidiary of Massachusetts-based BioEnergy International, is building a conventional, corn feedstock ethanol plant in Lake Providence using technology designed by Delta-T Corporation. Construction on the 108 million gpy facility began in late 2007 and should be completed by mid 2009. The company plans to gradually introduce its own proprietary technology into the plant to produce bio-based specialty chemicals and fuels from a wide variety of biomass wastes.

Dynamic Fuels is a joint venture between Tyson Foods, Inc. and Syntroleum Corporation. Tyson will supply animal fats, greases, and vegetable oils that will be converted into renewable synthetic diesel fuel using Syntroleum's proprietary, Fischer-Tropsch based process. The plant will be located in Geismer and have an ultimate capacity of 75 million gpy. Construction is scheduled to start this year and completion in 2010.

Greater Baton Rouge Ethanol is a subsidiary of Baton Rouge-based Shaw Capital. The plant will be located in Port Allen on land leased from the Port of Greater Baton Rouge. Initial capacity will be 100 million gpy from corn feedstock. Construction began in late 2007 and is due to be completed late this year.

Houston-based Green Earth Fuels subsidiary Green Earth Fuels of New Orleans has planned and secured permits for an 86 million gpy biodiesel plant in Harvey at the Kinder Morgan Terminal. Construction is pending final financing arrangements.

Louisiana Green Fuels in Lacassine is being built to complement the Lacassine syrup mill. The company is owned by Andino Energy (80%) and a group of Lake Charles cane farmers (20%). The plant will use molasses from sugar cane and newly planted sweet sorghum for feedstock and have a capacity of 22 million gpy. Construction is expected to begin early this year and be completed by the fall.

Iowa-based Renewable Energy Group began construction in St. Rose on a 60 million gpy biodiesel plant in June 2007 which they will own and operate. Production is expected to begin towards the end of 2008. The feedstock will be soybean oil obtained from a large oilseed processing plant located just 2 miles away.

The former Missalco plant in Belle Chase is being refurbished by **South Louisiana Ethanol** with 50/50 partner Earth Biofuels out of Texas. The refurbished plant will have a 65 million gpy capacity utilizing corn feedstock. The project is under construction but currently on hold due to legal issues surrounding Earth Biofuels in regard to an equipment purchase.

Monroe-based Tiger State Ethanol has been permitted to build two 110 million gpy ethanol plants, one in Convent, and the other in Lake Providence. Both plants plan to use corn feedstock. Neither plant is yet under construction, but the Convent plant is awaiting approval for GO Zone bonds and should begin construction shortly afterwards.

Massachusetts-based Verenium (merged from Celunol and Diversa, formerly BCI) operates a pilot scale cellulosic ethanol plant in Jennings. The facility was originally an oil refinery that was converted to an ethanol plant in the 1980s. BCI purchased the facility in 1994 and began refurbishing it into the current pilot scale cellulosic plant that began operation in 1999. In February 2007, Verenium began construction on a 1.4 million gpy cellulosic plant (adjacent to the current plant) which is scheduled to start up in early 2008. Verenium has further plans to build a commercial scale cellulosic plant by 2010.