



Illinois biodiesel plant completes construction upgrades, expands production capabilities
Upgrades support locally produced renewable fuels and green collar jobs while offering petroleum distributors more options

(DANVILLE, Ill., April 2, 2009)—Company officials at Renewable Energy Group® (REG®) and Blackhawk Biofuels, LLC. today announced completion of construction upgrades resulting in new production capabilities at the Danville biodiesel plant.

Located near the Illinois/Indiana border, the 45 million gallon per year biodiesel production facility can now utilize a wider array of fats and oils, like recycled kitchen grease. “These upgrades enhance local production of cleaning burning renewable fuel, support 28 green collar employees and offer petroleum distributors additional choices for high quality biodiesel,” explained Ron Mapes, chairman of the Blackhawk Biofuels, LLC.

“Upgrades began in September to enhance the plant’s vegetable oil-only process technology with new proprietary pretreatment and production technology,” Mapes added. “Plant start-up and vegetable-oil only biodiesel production began in November. These recent upgrades offer cutting edge technology for producing high quality biodiesel from a variety of oils and high free fatty acid feedstock.”

The \$12 million project included the multiple feedstock pretreatment and production upgrades, enhanced laboratory and testing facilities and improvements for storage and logistics capabilities. The construction project employed 68 full-time workers.

Construction, equipment installation and production start-up were achieved on schedule, added Brad Albin, vice president of manufacturing at REG who oversaw the upgrades. “Within just days of new equipment start-up, the plant was producing biodiesel from high free fatty acid feedstock which exceeded ASTM specifications. This is a testament to the experience our manufacturing team which works to ensure REG’s network of plants remain state-of-the-art as pretreatment improvements and process technologies improve.”

Renewable Energy Group is marketing all biodiesel from the facility which is located near the Illinois/Indiana border. The plant is offering all three REG-9000™ products which are sold based on fuel attributes, not feedstocks. The upgrades at Blackhawk Biofuels offer petroleum distributors greater options for pricing and supply volumes. Competitive pricing is now available for REG-9000-10 biodiesel.

All biodiesel sold at the facility will continue to meet or exceed ASTM specifications, including new cold soak filtration requirements. *REG-9000-1*, *REG-9000-5* and *REG-9000-10* biodiesel products offer improved oxidative stability and enhanced purity compared to other B100 biodiesel in today’s marketplace.

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About Renewable Energy Group®

Renewable Energy Group®, (REG®) leads the biodiesel industry by offering a complete biodiesel solution. Committed to redefining quality, Renewable Energy Group markets REG-9000™ biodiesel, which exceeds ASTM quality specifications, through existing nationwide diesel infrastructure.

REG-9000 biodiesel is marketed through large petroleum companies and fuel distributors and is utilized by on-highway fleets, municipalities, power generator, mining, military, home heating and agriculture applications.

REG-9000 biodiesel is produced by REG network production facilities consisting of state-of-the-art, proprietary multiple feedstock technology. Renewable Energy Group offers procurement and risk management, production operations and technology services in addition to alternative feedstock research and commercialization.

To learn more about Renewable Energy Group, Inc. please visit www.regfuel.com

