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Alternative Fuel Plant To Open

Officials broke ground on a state-of-the-art ethanol plant in Harrison County, Monday. Gov. Bob Taft, U.S. Rep. Bob Ney and other local officials attended the ceremony.



Harrison Ethanol, LLC represents a \$73 million investment in Harrison County, Ohio. It will utilize 9 million bushels of corn to produce 20 million gallons of ethanol annually. Enough to replace roughly 1/2 million barrels of oil.

Ethanol is like gasoline, but made from corn. It is clean burning, so it's good for the environment, and can actually clean your engine.

The plant is expected create nearly 200 jobs in the community and will serve as an important economic engine in Harrison County and the surrounding area in eastern Ohio.

"We've been told by the state of Ohio that they're expecting another three times as many jobs," said Wendel Dreve, the managing member of the plant. "Roughly 400 to 450 jobs will be created because of the spin-off of the first facility."

Site preparation work will take place for the rest of the winter months, and it is anticipated that construction will begin in earnest in April. It will take approximately 14 months to build the facility.

"Today we take a big step forward in achieving our goal of making Ohio a major ethanol producing state," Taft said.

Meanwhile, officials within the White House say President George W.

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Bush's State of the Union address Tuesday night will likely include a new package of energy proposals to encourage conservation. The measures aim to promote the use of ethanol in today's cars, and research on how to use hydrogen in tomorrow's.

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