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**Headlines**

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## Excavation begins at Harrison Ethanol

By AMY GAREIS News-Herald Staff Writer

EXCAVATION is starting at the planned Harrison Ethanol LLC biorefinery, but the walls will not be going up for months.

Company representatives and investors were on-site Thursday to view the beginning of the process, which includes debris removal and the formation of a concrete batch plant that will be extensively used during construction. Zanesville based subcontractor Sidwell Materials Inc. is overseeing that portion of the project, which is taking place on 276 acres at Dickerson Church Road south of Cadiz.

The past few months have consisted of taking a final site survey and core samples, as well as clearing the way for the new structures. Actual building may not occur until later this year or early 2007.

Wendel Dreve, the managing member of Harrison Ethanol LLC, said the excavation equipment was moved onto the site this past week and it was a sign of more to come. "These steps marked the beginning of heavy construction activities at the Dickerson Church Road site," he said.

Marion Gilliland, co-manager of the ethanol plant, said three phases of construction would start simultaneously but conclude at various times. "The ethanol plant is huge and complex and would take



Martin Phillips, Marion Gilliland and Jeff Sidwell inspect the installation of concrete foundations.

approximately 14 months. [The entire project] will be done in three sections for livestock, ethanol and dairy. It could take about seven months for the dairy," she noted, saying the livestock portion also would not take as long.

Excavation must take place first, followed by the installation of a clay base that is a relatively slow process. Company leaders said locations where heavy equipment, ethanol tanks and other large structures will be built must first have the clay added for a solid foundation. About 30 inches of the material is required prior to forming the concrete foundation and every six-inch- layer must be tested after the clay is placed. The material then cures before the next layer is added, with the entire process taking upwards of six weeks to finish.

Once the concrete foundation is ready, construction would start possibly by early next year on the various structures. Steel erection could likely happen during the winter months with the plant potentially operational in the third quarter of next year. Roughly 400 construction jobs are being created during the construction phase, but upon completion the facility would employ 107 on-site workers and 60 contracted drivers. Hirings are expected to start shortly after the heavy construction commences. If all goes according to plan the biorefinery could be operational during the third quarter of next year.

The ethanol distillation facility will convert about 9 million bushels of corn annually to ethanol; the refinery should produce 20 million gallons of fuel-grade ethanol per year, in addition to animal feed and goods for human consumption. The ethanol will be used as a fuel additive for vehicles, while 12,000 heads of beef and dairy cattle will be on-site to consume distiller's grains. The cattle will be housed in barns at all times and animal waste will be processed in an anaerobic digester. Byproducts range from liquid fertilizer to methane gas, among others, and the methane will also help generate "green" electricity at the facility. The possibility of producing food-grade corn oil currently is under evaluation.

Among investors and other supporters reviewing the scene were members of Coshocton Grain Co., Consumer's National Bank, Pinnacle Group and the Harrison County Community Improvement Corp. Consumer's National provided a \$600,000 interim loan that the company recently, paid off and planned, to feature the project in the bank's upcoming newsletter.

"It's fantastic that we are actually here," said Greg Kimble of Coshocton Grain Co. "It's a marvelous opportunity for our community. I hope everybody understands that this plant has a great opportunity. The biorefinery process is a lot more involved here. It's a lot more products and a lot more jobs."

County Commissioner Dennis Watson said the earth movement was the start of a long-awaited process. He added that it would be a tremendous asset to community coffers. "This project will provide a significant boost to the local economy through new construction jobs, employment of local residents at the completed facilities, new business opportunities for local farmers, and the establishment of spin-off businesses throughout the county," Watson said.

"This project will be the first of its kind in Ohio, in that it incorporates not only the production of ethanol but the development of several other products that revolve around the basic ethanol production function," added county Commissioner Phil Madzia. "this project has been in the development and planning stages for more than five years, and there is no doubt that Harrison County and its residents will reap significant benefits as a result of our patience and the perseverance of Harrison Ethanol LLC."

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