



President's Report

February 2, 2009

After two years of site preparation and plant construction, the SIRE ethanol facility is nearing completion! We have completely filled our silos with corn, successfully tested the hammermill operation (ground corn to a desired particle size), filled and tested the process center with hot water produced by a trailer mounted package boiler, tested the reboilers, and trained the entire operations staff. The ICM start-up team has been on site since early January and has the plant ready for grind.

Our last challenge lies with cleaning the 6600' steam and condensate line, which will be used to connect our plant with our primary heat source, MidAmerican Energy. Our agreement with MidAmerican Energy requires SIRE to meet specifications for silica, iron, pH, temperature, and conductivity on the return condensate water. Testing the line in preparation for startup shows we currently are able to meet all requirements but the silica specification. We have a plan in place to meet the silica specification by week's end. Once we are able to meet the water quality requirements, steam from MidAmerican will flow and we will continue with plant commissioning.

ICM will start the plant up at a 50% rate for two to three days, then ramp up to a 100% running rate. Once we achieve a running rate of 100% (nameplate), ICM will turn the operations of the plant over to SIRE. We will keep you posted.

The annual meeting for 2009 will be held this spring (April/May) in conjunction with a grand opening and we'll let you know the details when scheduled. As always, please contact me directly at (712) 366-0392 if you have any issues or concerns regarding the project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Burt", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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