

NREL Community News

Renewable Fuel Heating Plant to Begin Operation

Construction of the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory's new Renewable Fuel Heating Plant (RFHP) was completed in September.

The RFHP will use wood chips from urban wood wastes to produce heat, reducing NREL's natural gas use by 80 percent and replacing carbon emissions from fossil fuel sources with "net zero" carbon emissions from forest-based sources. The RFHP has been integrated with existing natural gas fueled boiler plants to provide hot water through underground pipes to heat all of NREL's laboratory facilities on the South Table Mountain site.

"We are looking at late October to start up the boiler for the 2008-2009 heating season," said Project Manager Chris Gaul. "But the start date depends on the weather being cool enough."



The Renewable Fuel Heating Plant will use urban wood wastes from Colorado's Front Range for fuel.

Once started, the plant is expected to run continuously until spring 2009.

NREL has an air permit from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and is working with the organization to ensure the efficient operation of the RFHP boiler.

According to the manufacturer, once the boiler has reached normal operating temperature, neighbors should notice no emissions or odors.

An average of three to five closed semi-trucks will deliver wood chip fuels each week during the heating season. ■

Community Invited to Participate in NEPA Review

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions. Many of you may have already received a *Notice of Public Scoping for the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) Supplement* in the mail about some of our upcoming activities.

These proposed activities include the construction of a new research building, expansion of existing buildings, upgrades to site infrastructure and the installation of a new site access road from South Golden Road.

DOE invites the public to comment on these proposed activities. More information on these projects and the EA Supplement can be found in the NEPA Documents section of the online DOE Electronic Public Reading Room http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/Reading_Room.aspx.

If you would like to receive NEPA information regarding upcoming activities, please request to be added to our NEPA mailing list by e-mailing NREL.NEPA.comments@nrel.gov;

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For More Information:

A community open house from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the NREL Visitors Center will offer neighbors a chance to learn more about the Laboratory's construction plans. For construction updates and information, visit NREL's Construction Update Web page at www.nrel.gov/news/construction_update.html or call the NREL Construction Hotline at 303-275-4087.

Designs for NREL Expansion Taking Shape

The design and build subcontracts for NREL's new Research Support Facilities (RSF) and Integrated Biorefinery Research Facility (IBRF) projects were awarded in July.

The RSF will be on the South Table Mountain campus and are expected to dramatically decrease NREL's use of leased facilities in the Denver West Office Park. All of the

preliminary design work for the building is due to NREL in early November, with construction to begin soon after.

The informal trail leading to the Mesa Top from the NREL Visitors Center will be closed permanently once construction begins. Hikers can access the Mesa Top using the Jeffco Trail Head located east of the Visitors Center parking lot.

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NREL Contact: If you have any questions about NREL's activities, contact Public Affairs Director Kerry Masson at 303-275-4083.

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

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Mesa Top PV Project Construction Underway

NREL's Mesa Top PV Project, managed by DOE's Golden Field Office, will be located near the NREL Solar Radiation Research Laboratory.

The solar project will produce an estimated 750kW of clean, renewable electric power from solar energy that will be used on site to provide up to seven percent of the electricity NREL uses.

SunEdison is developing the solar energy system and is expected to bring construction equipment on site through the end of the year. Neighbors may see a slight increase in traffic on Quaker Street as SunEdison staff uses the road to access the mesa top. Construction is expected to be completed in December. ■

NEPA Review (*Continued*)
faxing 303-275-4002 (Attn: NREL NEPA Comments); or sending a letter to NREL NEPA Comments, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 1617 Cole Blvd., MS 730, Golden, CO 80401. ■

Power Lunch on NREL Construction

Drew Detamore, director of the Major Construction Planning and Acquisition Office, will discuss what to expect as the Laboratory begins building its Campus of the Future. The presentation on Oct. 23, noon to 1 p.m., in NREL's Visitors Center is open to the public, call 303-384-6565 to make a reservation. ■

NREL Expansion Taking Shape

 (*Continued*)

The IBRF, an expansion of the Alternative Fuels User Facility, will enhance NREL's biomass-to-ethanol research capabilities to develop new cellulosic ethanol technologies. Construction is scheduled to be complete in early 2010.

Earlier this year, Congress approved funding for another addition to the Laboratory's campus, the Energy Systems Integration Facility (ESIF).

The building, to be located southeast of the Science and Technology Facility, is expected to have laboratory and office space for approximately 150 NREL researchers and support staff. NREL staff are slated to move into the ESIF in early 2012. ■

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