



PRESS RELEASE

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BERKSHIRE BIODIESEL ANNOUNCES PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A \$50 MILLION FACILITY AND THE AWARD OF A \$3 MILLION RAIL GRANT BY MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

Facility Would be One of the First Large-Scale Biodiesel Facilities in the Northeast

PITTSFIELD, MA - Berkshire Biodiesel LLC, the Massachusetts-based subsidiary of NorthWinds Biodiesel LLC, is pleased to announce its intent to construct a 50 million gallon per year biodiesel production facility in Pittsfield and Dalton, MA at Ashuelot Park, which is owned by Crane & Co., Inc. Berkshire Biodiesel expects to invest approximately \$50 million in the plant, which will be one of the first large-scale biodiesel production facilities in the Northeast.

The Town of Dalton, in concert with the City of Pittsfield, has just been awarded a \$3.057 million grant from the State of Massachusetts' Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) Freight Rail Transportation Capital Improvement Grant Program to support the development of the project. This EOT grant will help fund construction of a 2,500-foot rail siding to be located in both Dalton and Pittsfield that will connect the facility to the adjacent CSX rail line. This rail siding will play a critical role in meeting the facility's logistics requirements and will also help to reinvigorate Crane's Ashuelot Park site in which a portion of it will be made available to all area businesses. It is expected to provide substantial regional economic benefits by enhancing the transportation capabilities of this former industrial complex. The Ashuelot Park compound, which is located in both Pittsfield and Dalton, is the former Beloit Corp. manufacturing site which Crane acquired in 1999 and 2001.

"Pittsfield is truly a Green City as we are breaking ground into the increasingly important and growing renewable energy industry with one of the first large-scale biodiesel facilities in the Northeast," said Pittsfield Mayor James M. Ruberto. "This new facility is an excellent example of how government can work with the private sector to encourage businesses that will create jobs, drive the economy and improve our environment."

Dalton Select Board Chairman, Thomas S. Szczepaniak added, “Redevelopment of this industrial area is a top priority of the Town and its Development and Industrial Commission. We are extremely excited about the prospect of bringing Ashuelot Park back to what it once was through greater rail access and to being part of a new burgeoning renewable energy complex that will add substantial benefits to the Town of Dalton.”

The site, which Berkshire Biodiesel is leasing from Crane & Co., includes nine acres and a large building that was used for research and development by Beloit. The Berkshire Biodiesel team has completed Phase 1 engineering and design work and is now in the process of initiating permitting activities.

Biodiesel is a clean-burning alternative fuel produced from domestic, renewable resources and contains no petroleum. It can be used in its pure form (B100) or blended at any level with petroleum diesel and heating oil to create a fuel that can be used in engines, boilers, home furnaces and power generators with no modifications. Biodiesel is simple to use, biodegradable, non-toxic, and essentially free of sulfur and aromatics. The product is made through a chemical process called transesterification, whereby glycerin and biodiesel are created through a separation process. Glycerin is used in soaps, paper manufacturing and numerous other products. The primary benefit of biodiesel, in addition to reducing our dependence on foreign oil, is that it reduces harmful emissions such as hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and particulate matter as compared to conventional diesel.

“Berkshire Biodiesel is extremely pleased to announce this project at this site, with its excellent rail and truck access and existing facilities and is very excited about the award from the EOT, which is a strong demonstration of the Commonwealth’s support of the project, renewable energy, and regional economic growth,” said Garth Klimchuk, president of Berkshire Biodiesel, managing partner of NorthWinds Biodiesel and a summer resident of the Berkshires. “In addition, we have received exceptionally strong support from Crane & Co., the City of Pittsfield, the Town of Dalton, the Berkshire Economic Development Corporation, CSX and local legislators such as Senator Ben Downing and Representatives Daniel Bosley, Christopher Speranzo, Denis Guyer and Smitty Pignatelli. Without their assistance we would not have been able to get where we are today and we look forward to a long and prosperous relationship and to playing a key role in the area’s growing renewable energy industry and the overall economic vitality of the region.”

Lee Harrison, Executive Vice President of Berkshire Biodiesel and a resident of Williamstown, added that “the Berkshires represents the perfect location for this plant, given its strong workforce, its proximity to major diesel and heating oil markets, its efficient rail and trucking transportation system, and the overall quality of life.”

Safe Harbour Chartering, a Connecticut-based freight brokerage and logistics company specializing in chemical, vegetable oil and animal fats transportation, will manage Berkshire Biodiesel’s feedstock supply and logistics. Safe Harbour president, Jim Weinberg, said that Berkshire Biodiesel will receive vegetable oils as well as animal fats shipped from the key crushing, refining and meat packing regions across the U.S., which are served by CSX Transportation. “We are very excited to play a role in the success of Berkshire Biodiesel; providing “Midwest” oil as an alternative to “Middle East” oil for the Northeast and to do so with a product that is environmentally friendly, while at the same time providing jobs to U.S. agriculture as well as to the local community,” said Weinberg.

According to Steve Sears, a land-use consultant and Crane's former vice president of manufacturing, engineering and environmental services who has played a key role in the negotiations between the parties, said siting a biodiesel facility at Ashuelot Park is attractive to both parties for several reasons:

- The Northeast is one of the largest consumers of distillate fuels and thus can become one of the largest markets for biodiesel.
- Several Northeast states have or will be implementing biodiesel mandates.
- The facility would generate locally produced, non-polluting fuel for business, industry, and home heating.
- The plant and its rail siding will play an important role in reinvigorating the Ashuelot Park complex which has been idle for the last several years.

“We at Crane are very excited about the prospects of Berkshire Biodiesel utilizing one of our sites and being a part of a burgeoning new, environmentally sound, 21st Century industry. Locally produced renewable fuel will enhance the quality of life in the Berkshires and at the same time assist Crane in several different ways,” said Charlie Kittredge, CEO at Crane & Co. “It strongly supports our company’s commitment to being a long-term steward of the environment and our continuing commitment to enhancing the local economy.”

Berkshire Biodiesel has engaged several local and regional firms to assist in the overall development and construction of the project, including EDM Services and Foresight Land Services of Pittsfield, Barr & Barr of Williamstown, and Fuss & O’Neill of West Springfield. Sherwood Guernsey P.C. of Pittsfield is the company’s legal counsel. Berkshire Biodiesel also engaged Biodiesel Services Group of Memphis, TN to complete the process-related engineering & design work of the project. Berkshire Biodiesel will employ approximately 100 temporary workers during construction and about 25 permanent employees once fully operational. The company plans to have the facility operating by October, 2008.

“The overall economic and environmental benefit of the Berkshire Biodiesel facility and the alliance being created with Crane make this an extremely exciting opportunity for the citizens of Berkshire County. We are very pleased to be a part of this project and the team that has worked so hard to see it through to this stage,” commented Tyler Fairbank, President of the Berkshire Economic Development Corporation.

About NorthWinds Biodiesel

NorthWinds Biodiesel (NWB) is the biodiesel development arm of NorthWinds Renewables (NWR) a Harrison, NY-based renewable energy merchant banking firm providing investment banking services exclusively to the renewable energy industry as well principal early-stage investments in renewable energy companies and projects. NWB, a joint venture company between NWR and Safe Harbour Chartering, is focused on the development of destination-based biodiesel production facilities in which Berkshire Biodiesel represents the firm’s Massachusetts activities. Safe Harbour is responsible for managing the feedstock supply and logistics for NWB’s facilities. NWR believes that biodiesel plants located in the primary distillate demand regions, versus the feedstock supply regions, will be extremely viable and well positioned to meet growing vehicular, heating oil and power generation demand for renewable fuels in the Northeast. The firm’s basic development objective is to partner with parties that bring strong and viable expertise in the key development and operating disciplines of biodiesel production as well as those who bring strong local knowledge and relationships. NWR’s professionals have over 100 years of cumulative experience in investment banking, energy project development and operations, project finance, business development, accounting and marketing. The firm’s investment banking activities are conducted through its affiliate company NorthWinds Advisors. (www.berkbiodiesel.com)

About Crane & Co., Inc.

Based in Dalton, Crane & Co. is a 206-year-old family-owned company that manufactures fine business and social stationery products, as well as the currency papers for the United States and other countries around the world. The company employs 1,375 people. (www.crane.com)

About EDM Services, Inc.

EDM is a fully integrated, team-oriented, multidisciplinary architectural and engineering firm with offices in Pittsfield, MA, West Hartford, CT and Gilford, NH. Incorporated in 1988, EDM provides comprehensive technical and management services in the areas of architectural design, planning and programming, as well as civil, structural, mechanical, and electrical and industrial engineering services. EDM has played a major role in the early development of the project. (www.edm-serv.com)

About Foresight Land Services

Foresight is an engineering, surveying, planning and environmental services firm with over thirty years of experience. Foresight offers a wide range of services, including large-scale surveys throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. (www.foresightland.com)

About Fuss & O'Neill, Inc

Fuss & O'Neill is a full service civil and environmental consulting firm with offices in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, North Carolina and South Carolina. Services that Fuss & O'Neill provides to its clients include all facets of civil and environmental engineering and environmental science including lead and asbestos, indoor air quality and health and safety services. (www.fando.com)

About Barr & Barr, Inc.

Barr & Barr is a full-service construction management firm operating eight full-service offices located throughout the Northeast employing over 300 experienced construction professionals, including fully staffed in-house preconstruction and MEP departments. The company has been consistently recognized as one of the nation's Top 100 CM-at-Risk Firms and Top 400 Contractors by ENR (Engineering News-Record) magazine. (www.barrandbarr.com)

About the Law Offices of Sherwood Guernsey P.C.

The Law Offices of Sherwood Guernsey P.C. is a Pittsfield-based law firm with over thirty years of cumulative experience in the areas of corporate, real estate and business law. (www.sglawoffice.com)

About Biodiesel Services Group

Biodiesel Services Group is the engineering affiliate of Frazier Barnes & Associates in which its professionals have over seventy years experience in providing technical and management consulting in value-added agriculture, oil seed and grain processing and the development of bioenergy projects. (www.frazierbarnes.com)

***NOTE:** Representatives will be available at the Berkshire Economic Development Corporation located at 75 North Street, Suite 360, Pittsfield and by phone at (413) 499-4000 x16 today, Wednesday, May 2, from 11am until 1pm to answer any questions.*