From: alvaro.linero@dep.state.fl.us
To: Read, David
Subject: From Greenwire -- BIOFUELS: Commercial cellulosic plant opens in Miss.
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This Greenwire story was sent to you by: alvaro.linero@dep.state.fl.us

Personal message: Commercial cellulosic plant opens in Miss. I guess chemical processes are more promising than bio-processes.

Greenwire

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BIOFUELS: Commercial cellulosic plant opens in Miss. *(Friday, November 9, 2012)*

Amanda Peterka, E&E reporter

One of the first commercial cellulosic biofuel plants in the nation has started operating, executives at the company KiOR Inc. announced yesterday.

The facility in Columbus, Miss., is capable of producing gasoline, diesel and jet fuel with a technology that can be fed several types of plant-based feedstocks, company President and CEO Fred Cannon said. At a conference last week in San Francisco, he billed it as the "world's first cellulosic drop-in biofuel," or one that can be fed into existing fuel infrastructure.

The fuel is "virtually indistinguishable, the same molecules as petroleum makes gasoline, diesel and jet," Cannon said. "We start with the same feedstocks that Mother Nature started with. We end with the same products that our refineries burn petroleum into today."

KiOR broke ground at the $222 million plant in 2011 and finished construction earlier this year. At full capacity, the plant will produce 11 million gallons of fuel a year and process 500 dry tons of Southern yellow pine as its feedstock. The biomass will be fed into a proprietary catalyst system based off one used in oil refineries.

"Literally in seconds, we go from biomass to renewable crude oil," Cannon said.

The company plans to break ground at a facility three times that size in Mississippi after the Columbus plant is fully operational.

KiOR is one of the early movers in the cellulosic biofuel industry. Its opening comes shortly after BP Biofuels announced it was dropping plans to build a commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol plant in Florida (*E&ENews PM*, Oct. 25).

Several other companies, though, have put steel in the ground this year on plants or completed construction, including INEOS Bio, which last week began producing renewable

electricity at an 8-million-gallon waste-to-fuel plant in Vero Beach, Fla.

INEOS expects to start producing cellulosic ethanol later this year, which will be blended with traditional gasoline.

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E&E Publishing, LLC
122 C St., Ste. 722, NW, Wash., D.C. 20001.
Phone: 202-628-6500. Fax: 202-737-5299.
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