



Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficient Technologies Grants Program

Highlands Ethanol Project

Recipient: Verenium Biofuels Corp.
Contact: Tim Eves, (813) 349-4943
Location: Highlands County

Grant Funds Request: \$2,500,000
Grant Funds Awarded: \$2,500,000
Cost Share Amount: \$23,406,125

Project Objective: The recipient will construct Florida's first commercial cellulosic ethanol production facility plant that will produce 36 million gallons of ethanol per a year. The project will incorporate the entire process required for ethanol production, from feedstock pretreatment through hydrolysis and fermentation to the distillation of the fuel-grade ethanol. The feedstock supply will consist of high fiber perennial and annual non-food crops, using primarily a low-content sugar cane with sorghum as a supplemental crop.

All water from the feedstock during processing will be re-used for energy crop irrigation. Solids remaining after distillation will be used as the fuel for the biomass boilers, which will provide heat and steam for the process. The facility will utilize microbial fermentation to convert the cellulose in the biomass to ethanol, using an underlying technology licensed to Verenium by Dr. Lonnie Ingram at the University of Florida.

Energy Potential: Once complete, the project will produce 36 million gallons of cellulosic ethanol per year.

Economic Development: The project will stimulate Florida's economy by creating employment opportunities during construction for up to 400 workers as well as 140 permanent skilled jobs upon completion of construction.

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