



Board supports pellet project

September 20, 2006

Cherokee, Iowa -- The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors motioned to support the plan to convert solid waste to fuel pellets. It was decided that the project would be funded through a General Obligation (GO) bond for the estimated \$3 million equipment costs. The primary customer of the fuel pellets will be a biodiesel plant constructed next fall.

"This is a viable project and will be good for Cherokee County," John Geist of Ruan Securities stated.

"If we can get a usable product instead of burying it, we should do that," said Don Pitts, manager of Cherokee County landfill. "It will add jobs as well as extending the life of the landfill."

Ken Slater, chairman of the Cherokee solid waste agency explained, "The avoidance of costs as well as the revenue created caused us to get this. Along with an estimated \$421,000 in revenue annually from selling the fuel pellets, the landfill will avoid about \$521,000 annually from eliminating most of the volume currently going into the landfill."

Mike Brooks, senior project engineer noted, "The pellets burn cleanly, with the burn tests passing EPA tests easily."

The construction of the palletizing equipment is expected to start this fall and be ready for operation in June of 2007.

Contact

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