

March 7, 2005

Construction of the ethanol plant is moving along at a rapid pace. Fagen now has 30 employees on site working 12 hour days six days a week. Dirt work continues as excellent weather has allowed us to complete road work that wasn't scheduled to begin until April. In addition to rock trucks, cement trucks are beginning to roll in on a regular basis. One day alone there were three pumper trucks running. Forms have been poured for the four fermentation tanks and the one larger beer well which crews are now in the process of filling in with concrete. These forms are nine and one half feet tall and can only be filled with 3 feet of concrete at one time. Forms were also poured for the 2 smaller liquefaction tanks on the north side of the fermentation tanks.

The liquefaction tanks are where additional enzymes are added to the slurry. Ground corn is mixed with water to create a mash. This mash is cooked and enzymes are added to create a fine slurry. This slurry is pumped into the liquefaction tanks and then into the fermentation tanks where yeast is added and the fermentation process begins. After fermentation the mash goes into the beer well where the alcohol begins to vaporize from the mash and create "beer."