



Biofuel plant plans unveiled. Wednesday, 16 May 2007

After those who attended BFuel Canada Corp's open house on the crushing and biodiesel refining facility off of Highway 3 near the Hamlet of Chin did not have objections to the plant being built, the project is going ahead.

By Jennifer Elves; Taber Times

The plant, which is anticipated to be between 14,000 and 15,000 square feet, is the first plant to be built in Canada to include a crush portion and be on a commercial scale. The facility will consist of two main processing areas, including a crush plant, where the canola seed will be crushed and the oil will be extracted. Oil from the crush plant will be transported to the other area, which will be a biodiesel refinery plant. The byproduct from the first area will be canola meal with a high protein content, and will be sold as feedstock.

"We are quite in favour of it coming," said Darlene Beler, who resides close to where the plant is going to be constructed. "If the extraction (of the oil) was a toxic method, then it would be a different story." Beler and her husband attended the open house last Wednesday in the Cranford Hall because they wanted to learn about the plant's location, its operation and the method for extracting oil from the canola. "Number one it will put Chin on the map. It will certainly give a boost to the economy and there will be jobs available to certain people. Possibly, there could be a little boom (to Chin). Economically, it will be a good thing." She added from representatives at the gathering, she learned there will not be any odour or noise from the plant. The most the biodiesel plant will produce in a year will be 40 million litres. Between 250 and 300 tonnes of canola seed will go into the plant daily.

Along with the main plant areas, three supporting storage areas will be part of the facility. The storage spaces will be for unprocessed seed, to store and unload the canola meal to be shipped out to wherever it will be used to feed animals and to store the biodiesel at the end of the whole plant.

K.D. Takeda, principal engineer for Trimark Engineering, added the project is still in the beginning planning stages and further details will be worked out during the detailed engineering design phase. At the open house, those in attendance were assured there will be future information sessions held.

"We have no hidden agenda. We wanted to make sure residents of Chin understood exactly what we are doing. We didn't want them to hear (about) it in the coffee shop," said LeRoy Fjordbotton of Silverwood Ventures Ltd. "People were very much in favour of it. We were very pleased the people in Chin and the farmers were excited about it. They were excited to be involved. We didn't have one concern raised." Fjordbotton added there is opportunity for farmers to buy a portion of the plant.

"We want it to be the farmers' plant is what we want it to be."

He said the land for the operation has been secured and now the next step will be making sure every aspect of the plant is covered before moving ahead. He said those working on the project will be confirming whether the location is right and will make sure there is an adequate water supply in the area, before construction begins.