

## Daily changes with more than 200 on site

Ringneck Energy's plant site is rapidly taking shape, with as many as 250 workers on site at one time between multiple crews tackling a variety of aspects of the overall construction process.

Rob Schladetzky, project manager with Fagen Inc., says that as the long summer days wane and the project enters crunch time, they have been appreciative of the good weather that has meant no rain delays in recent weeks.

Fagen's pipe, electrical, and millwright subcontractors are working diligently in the fermentation, process, distillation and energy center, with the siding and insulation crew starting to insulate vessels and installing roof panels in the process area. Elsewhere in the plant, Fagen's civil crew has poured the foundation for the regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO) and the centrifuge deck, and has started working on the pile rack foundation near the cooling tower.

ICM, which is responsible for the process system, is setting conveyors, duct work and the RTO. In the wet cake area, the iron crew is hanging trusses and stud work has started for interior walls. Tank erection is progressing in the tank farm.

In the grains area, the civil crew has completed the foundation for the



*Above: The process building is taking shape. Left: The hopper and conveyor are in place in the grain receiving area.*

is overseeing subcontractors for the plant's general site work, utility extensions and administration building, is also pleased with how quickly work is moving toward completion.

Water lines to provide as much as 675 gallons/minute from Mid-Dakota Rural Water are nearly finished, with the internal fire loop complete and the whole system expected to be operational by mid- to late-October to allow for hydro-testing before winter sets in.

On the electrical side, the substation to route power from East River and Oahe Electric Rural Cooperative

south grain bin and is backfilling the north bin. Bin erectors have started erecting the south bin. The grain receiving building is almost complete, with work progressing on the towers and conveyors.

Ringneck CEO Walt Wendland, who

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# Commodity manager slot filled this month

## ***Rest of management team, operations staff next focus for hiring efforts***

A North Dakota native who has worked in the grain and commodities trade for more than 20 years has joined the staff of Ringneck Energy as commodity manager. Kevin Kjorsvik, who lives in Pierre, was most recently general manager of the ADM shuttle loader facility in Harold, S.D., having moved there in September 2010 as a grain originator when the facility was first being built.

"It's fun and exciting to be involved with start-ups and to come up with solutions," Kjorsvik said, noting that while there are very few adrenaline rushes similar to that of being on the trading floor, he is looking forward to the excitement of seeing Ringneck Energy come to life.

Kjorsvik's experience on the trading floor includes working for Benson-Quinn Commodity Inc., and then ADM when it acquired Benson-Quinn, in both Kansas City and Minneapolis. He is a graduate of St. Cloud State University with a degree in finance, and had started his professional career as a market observer and compliance officer with the Minneapolis Grain Exchange.

His wife, Michele, is a Minneapolis native who owns and operates a pet care business. Kjorsvik enjoys fishing and golf, and maintains ties to his family's home farm in North Dakota, operated by his brother-in-law and where his mother still lives.

Bill Paulsen, general manager of Energy Management Solutions, which will provide management services for Ringneck's plant, said he is pleased to bring Kjorsvik on to lead the procurement group. "He is someone who has relationships in our area already and will be able to hit the ground running," he said.

Paulsen and EMS are actively looking for the rest of the management team to lead Ringneck, including a plant manager, maintenance manager, and environmental health and safety (EHS) manager. Also a priority will be hiring the plant's operations team, which will need to be assembled at least 60 days prior to start-up to complete training.

"For our hiring in general," Paulsen said, "we want to hire as much local as possible." In seeking experienced managers for leadership positions, Paulsen said the search radius will expand beyond the immediate area, but he noted that it could provide an opportunity for professionals with ties to the area to come back home.

Total staffing at the plant at start-up, including management and administration positions, is expected to be approximately 43 employees.



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## **Construction update**

has been set with underground wiring to the site complete. Transformer pads on the site have been poured, with wire expected to be pulled throughout the site by the end of September and permanent power in place by early November.

Gas utility work, connecting the plant with South Dakota Interstate Pipeline, should also be in place by mid-October. The town border station (TBS) that contains the meter, heater, pressure release valve and regulator is expected to be installed by late November.

Wickersham Construction has poured the basement and walls for the administration building, with floor joists going in as well. Wendland said he hopes to be moved into his new office by the end of November.



*Above left: Ethanol tank farm. Above right: Energy center.*

A new road from US Highway 83 to the plant, funded through grants and a tax increment financing (TIF) loan, should be completed by Oct. 15, with the work being done by AGE, the same firm that completed dirt work on the plant site. Also on site are crews from Sukup Manufacturing's sub-contractors, who have been busy putting up grain bins, conveyors and legs.

"There are a lot of things coming together," Wendland said, and the 200+



workers at the site have also kept Onida, population of 659, hopping as the city tackles its own street and utility projects also.

Wendland said Ringneck is focused on being an active member of the community both during construction and when production begins. "We're really diligently doing as much procurement as possible locally," he said.

Actual plant start-up is currently anticipated in January 2019.



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**Our Mission:**

To produce renewable energy that adds value to grain and livestock production, enhances the income of our investor partners, provides a safe and rewarding work environment that creates economic opportunities for the surrounding area.

**Goals for the Company:**

- Produce 80 million gallons per year of bio-fuel ethanol focusing on the local, regional and national markets by first quarter of 2019.
- Produce a high-protein feed source for the local livestock.
- Return maximum profits to member investors.
- Add value to agriculture in the area.
- Meet the standard 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Improve efficiency with the latest technology.

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## News around the industry

### National corn crop looks to break records; local hurt by dry late summer weather

While the USDA crop production report released Sept. 14 shows the national crop on track to break records with an average yield of 181.3 bu/acre, a dry August held back the central South Dakota corn to a more normal 100-150 bu/acre on dryland, compared to a projected 150-175 bu/acre anticipated earlier in the season. Some local crops in the region around

Ringneck Energy's plant were also damaged by a pair of hail storms in late summer.

Statewide figures from the USDA forecast a record high 839 million bushels of corn to be harvested this fall, up 14 percent from last year, with an average yield statewide of a record high 173 bushels per acre, up 28 bushels from last year.

The nationwide yield marks five years in a row of yields above trend line.



*Sukup Manufacturing crews have a good start on this 750,000 bushel grain storage bin on the Ringneck Energy site.*

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