



Contributed / Red Trail Energy

Red Trail Energy at Richardton, North Dakota, produces about 65 million gallons of ethanol from about 23 million bushels of corn each year.

Sustainable jet fuel developer plans move to North Dakota amid Summit pipeline delays

BY JEFF BEACH
North Dakota Monitor

BISMARCK

A sustainable aviation fuel developer plans to shift investment from South Dakota to North Dakota, in part because of delays in the development of the multi-state Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline.

Colorado-based Gevo had obtained a \$1.46 billion loan through the U.S. Department of Energy to build a jet fuel plant at Lake Preston, South Dakota. Company officials told the North Dakota Monitor on Thursday that it instead will push ahead with making jet fuel at the Richardton, North Dakota, ethanol plant it bought last year. Gevo is working with the Department of Energy to transfer the loan to expand the North Dakota site.

Red Trail Energy at Richardton in 2022 became the first ethanol plant in the country to capture and store carbon dioxide, taking advantage of its location in an area with the right geology for permanent underground storage.

Gevo plans to expand the North Dakota ethanol plant, which turns corn into fuel. It would convert the ethanol into higher-value aviation fuel in a process it calls alcohol to jet. Carbon capture is a key part of making sus-

tainable aviation fuel.

“We don’t have to share pipelines. We don’t have to wait. We’re already doing it,” CEO Pat Gruber said of carbon capture at the North Dakota site.

Gevo’s South Dakota site relied on the planned Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline to take carbon dioxide to an underground storage site in North Dakota. But the future of that project in South Dakota is in doubt because of landowner resistance and state permitting hurdles.

Iowa-based Summit is seeking to change its pipeline permit in that state. Summit wants to remove North Dakota as the designated end point for the pipeline.

A spokesperson for Summit said the change “keeps open the option to transport CO2 west through Nebraska or north through South Dakota,” the Iowa Capital Dispatch reported Oct. 10.

Gruber said the jet fuel production in North Dakota would be 30 million gallons of jet fuel a year, half of what was planned for South Dakota. But he said the 500 acres at Richardton could allow for expansion.

He said the jet fuel plant would cost about \$500 million. Gruber noted that is substantially less than \$2.6 billion it planned to spend on the South Dakota site.

Gevo is hosting a meeting Monday, Oct. 20, to

answer questions for farmers and others in the Richardton area. The meeting will be from 6 to 7:30 Mountain Time at WIX Barn near Richardton.

Gruber said building in North Dakota also opens the door to Gevo selling its carbon to the oil industry. North Dakota oil producers could buy the carbon dioxide for enhanced oil recovery — pumping gas into the well to help the well produce more oil.

“This is a great opportunity for us, and we sit right next to Bakken,”

Gruber said, referring to the Bakken Formation. North Dakota is the nation’s No. 3 oil producing state, with most of it coming from the Bakken.

Oil industry and state leaders have touted enhanced oil recovery as a way for North Dakota to sustain oil production for decades to come and continue to provide the state with tax revenue.

Gruber said Gevo has started discussion with oil companies, but he said the infrastructure to make enhanced oil recovery possible is still years away.

Ethanol plants are seen as a prime source for carbon dioxide because the gas is captured from the fermentation process of turning corn into ethanol instead of from the burning of fuel.

“It’s pure, concentrated CO2,” Gruber said.

Another benefit of

carbon capture for Gevo is the ability to sell carbon credits to other industries with high carbon emissions. Gevo in September announced it is partnering with Biorecro North America on carbon credit sales generated at the North Dakota facility.

Gruber said he was grateful the Department of Energy for working with Gevo on transferring the federal loan, though there are steps remaining to complete the process. Gevo filed a document with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday of its intent to use the loan money in North Dakota.

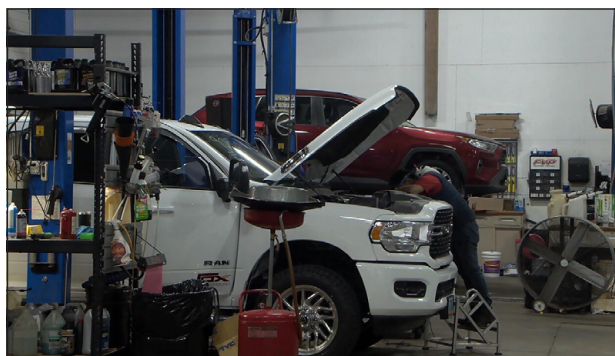
As for the future of the eastern South Dakota site, Gevo officials said it remains a great industrial location and will be developed.

“The are other things we can do at that site,” said Paul Bloom, Gevo’s chief business officer. “It’s a matter of when.”

But the Gevo officials said the demand for sustainable aviation fuel meant the company could not wait for the Summit pipeline. Summit had hoped to be operating in 2024 but has yet to start construction as it tries to secure all the permits it needs.

“We can’t sit around for that,” Gruber said. “We’ve got a mission here.”

This story was originally published on NorthDakotaMonitor.com.



Kjersti Maday / WDAY News

Mechanics working on vehicles at Fix It Forward in south Fargo.

Experts urge vehicle checkups before winter hits

Make sure to carry emergency kits in winter

BY KJERSTI MADAY
WDAY

FARGO — Now is a good time for drivers to have their cars checked by a mechanic before snow sticks to the ground and frigid temperatures arrive.

“Maintenance is a lot cheaper than buying parts,” said Kevin Cote, general manager of Fix It Forward in south Fargo.

The warning is especially timely with a 25% tariff on auto parts from most countries now in effect. Cote recommends bringing vehicles in for a maintenance check before winter weather hits.

“We do a free, 50-minute inspection on every vehicle that comes in the shop, just give it a quick shake down, quick test drive, just to make sure nothing’s going to fall apart that you may or may not be aware of,” Cote said.

The shop also provides free battery and brake checks, though there is a small fee for any additional testing or diagnostics.

Cote said the most important part of winter preparation is ensuring tires are in good condition.

“Make sure you have good tires. They’re not too old, because the tread gets pretty hard the older the tires get,” he said. Older tires provide less traction on icy or snow-packed roads.

Drivers should also check windshield wipers. “If they are kind of half worn out or not in the greatest shape, they’re not going to do a very good job at all when you get some snow and ice on your windshield,” Cote said.

For optimal visibility in winter, he recommends checking low and high

beam headlights and keeping them on low beam during blizzards.

Cote also advises ensuring the air filter is clean, coolant levels are sufficient and oil is changed.

“You want to make sure you have some fresh oil to start winter, because generally your car is going to run longer because you’re going to want to warm up the engine so the oil does degrade a little bit quicker,” he said.

He recommends coolant or antifreeze with a freezing point of at least negative 32 degrees and all-weather tires for drivers in the region.

Tire pressure should be monitored throughout the season, as it can drop by one PSI for every 10-degree temperature decrease.

After making sure your car is ready for winter driving, it’s important to organize a winter survival kit and keep it in your vehicle.

Drivers should include extra winter clothing such as hats, gloves and coats, along with blankets. The kit should also contain a flashlight, ice scraper, phone charger, and non-perishable snacks and water in case of being stranded.

“I’d recommend for everyone and, where we live, is a first aid kit, some cold weather gear, maybe an extra set of boots, a blanket, maybe some non-perishable food items, just in case you do get stranded, which does happen,” said Kevin Cote, general manager of Fix It Forward.

Cote also recommends keeping a small shovel and some kitty litter in the car to help get unstuck from snow. Drivers should ensure the gas tank is more than half full before traveling in winter conditions.

Reach WDAY reporter Kjersti Maday at kmaday@wday.com.

BRIEFS

Minnesota energy assistance delayed by federal shutdown

ST. PAUL — Thousands of homeowners in Minnesota are seeing delays in energy bill assistance due to the ongoing government shutdown.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP, cannot provide benefits while the shutdown continues.

In 2024, Minnesota

received \$125 million in federal funds, helping 125,000 homes with their utility bills.

An official with the Minnesota Department of Commerce said she is hopeful the shutdown will end soon and encouraged residents to apply for assistance.

“We need folks to say, ‘Hey, I qualify, and this is who my utility provider or my heating provider is,’ so that we are ready and have that set up in

the system. We’re able to do that part, but we really can’t start issuing any payments until we have those federal dollars in,” said Lissa Pawlisch, of the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

North Dakota Health and Human Services said it is also taking LIHEAP applications. When asked whether the shutdown would delay benefits, a representative said, “No directives have been received about LIHEAP at

this time.”

WDAY staff reports

Woman charged with murder in Minot shooting

MINOT, N.D. — A Minot woman has been charged with murder following a Saturday afternoon shooting that left one man dead in southeast Minot.

According to a news release from the Minot Police Department, officers were dispatched

around 3:04 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, to a residence in the 10th block of 39th Avenue SE after reports of gunfire.

When officers arrived, they found 38-year-old Lance David Phillips, of Minot, suffering from gunshot injuries. He was transported to a local hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

Police took Racheal Kathryn Foster, 43, into custody at the scene. She was initially arrested for

felony drug paraphernalia possession. After further investigation, which included interviews and evidence collection, Foster was charged Sunday, Oct. 19, with murder, a Class AA felony.

Foster was transported to the Ward County Jail without further incident.

The case remains under investigation, police said.

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CONTACT US

Administration

William C. Marcil
Chairman

Bill Marcil Jr., Publisher and CEO
publisher@forumcomm.com

Advertising

Classified advertising	701-241-5504
Farmers' Forum ads	701-241-5504
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Newsroom Staff

Matthew Von Pinnon, Editor
mvonpinnon@forumcomm.com

Kaity Young, News Editor
kyoung@forumcomm.com

Thomas Evanela, News Editor
tevanela@forumcomm.com

Angie Wieck, Business, Features Editor
awieck@forumcomm.com

Rob Beer, Sports Editor
rbeer@forumcomm.com

Anna Paige, Photo Editor
apaige@forumcomm.com

NEWS TIPS

news@forumcomm.com,
701-451-5734 or
701-241-5579.

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Call 833-248-7802.

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