



Nebraska

INDUSTRIAL OVERVIEW

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New Power Station Being Constructed



Left to right: Beatrice Mayor Dennis Schuester, Gage County Board of Supervisors Chairman Dave Anderson, NPPD Board Director Gary Thompson, NPPD President and CEO Bill Fehrman, Lt. Governor Dave Heineman, NPPD Board Chairman Wayne Boyd, State Senator Dennis Byars, VP of Energy Supply Rick Gardner, and Norris Public Power District General Manager Glen Schmieding.

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) broke ground on a 250-megawatt, gas-fired facility on June 26. Before summer 2005, NPPD plans to generate electricity from this facility located just outside Beatrice, Nebraska.

"By having this plant part of our system, NPPD can avoid market spikes that happen when a major unit comes off-line and ensure that we can deliver energy to our customers without transmission issues. In addition, the price our customers pay will be less than market price, because we are serving our own load and, therefore, not subject to higher market prices," said President and CEO Bill Fehrman.

"While this is just a rural hilltop, you can see from the significant changes already made that this is going to be a powerful part of Nebraska's economy," County Board Chairman David Anderson said. "We have a wonderful public power history in this state and we look forward to carrying that on."

"Nebraska Public Power District, Beatrice Power Station. Isn't that exciting? It gives me a comfortable feeling when I see what is happening here," said Beatrice State Senator Dennis Byars. "I know that NPPD has always had the best interests of its rate-payers in mind and it has been a joy being a partner with them."

Once complete, NPPD's new facility will employ more than a dozen full-time employees. The power station will also provide an economic benefit to the Beatrice area during construction by utilizing up to 200 construction workers to build the facility.

\$7 Million Greenhouse in O'Neill



Source: Holt County Independent

Ground was broken and construction started on a 10-acre greenhouse in O'Neill. This \$7 million greenhouse, employing 40-50 workers, will grow hydroponic tomatoes. Expected to produce up to five million pounds of tomatoes a year, the greenhouse should be completed by October and harvest its first tomatoes two months later. The greenhouse is heated by hot water lines, which run on the floor and below the ceiling. Water is heated by waste oil and piped throughout the greenhouse. Land is available for the greenhouse to expand to 20 acres and employ 75-100 workers.

"To me, this has got to be where agriculture's going," said Marv Fritz, president of Holt County 21st Century Growers of O'Neill. "Everything's got to become more efficient."

"The town is excited about the project. It's going to bring jobs to the community and bring some industry that we need to keep people here and employed," said O'Neill Mayor Bill Price.

The greenhouse is identical to its sister greenhouses in Minden and Gothenburg. All three will be managed by Farmers Premium Produce of Pleasanton, Nebraska, which markets vegetables in 25 states.

30-Million Gallon Ethanol Plant Breaks Ground in Trenton



Left to right: Dennis Grennan, Nebraska Public Power District; Curtis Kayton, Southwest Public Power District; Bob Shank, ICM, Inc.; Adam Beren, Berexco and Trenton Agri Products; Senator Tom Baker, Governor Mike Johanns; Charles Wilson, Trenton Agri Products; Al Wenstrand, Nebraska Department of Economic Development; and Ev Huddleson, Trenton Community Development Commission

expressed with the welcome and incentives from Nebraska. "In Nebraska, it was 'What can we do to help?' Everyone here wants it in their backyard," said Jan Wilson of Trenton Agri Products LLC.

"Beren Oil, now Berexco, has the longest standing relationship with the many oil companies that Southwest Public Power District (SWPPD) has served since the early 1960s. We would like to commend their business acumen in realizing the favorable environment Southwest Nebraska offers the industry through its healthy livestock and grain industries. We look forward to continuing our relationship with them, stated Curtis Kayton, staff assistant at SWPPD.

"Local electricity rates are very competitive and another reason for selecting the Trenton area," said Charlie Wilson, president of Trenton Agri Products. "Senator Tom Baker went beyond the call of duty to help make the Trenton ethanol plant a reality, he said." Wilson also cited the incredible cooperation and support from Nebraska Public Power and Southwest Public Power districts, state departments, Hitchcock County commissioners, and others.

"We don't build the plant ourselves, but we do coordinate the people that get the information to make projects like this happen," stated Dennis Grennan, senior vice president of Customer Services for Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD).

Trenton Agri Products, LLC, broke ground June 17 in Hitchcock County near Trenton on the Republican River for a 30-million gallon ethanol plant. The plant is expected to start ethanol production in June 2004 with 30 employees. In its initial stages, the plant will use 12 million bushels of corn and/or milo.

Officials of Berexco, the parent company of Trenton Agri Products, were very im-

Nor-Am to Build Cold Storage in Schuyler



Photo: Greg Brandt, Nor-Am president and CEO; Governor Mike Johanns; Nebraska State Senator Arnie Stuthman; and Nebraska Senator Curt Bromm

Initially employing 20 people, is a public warehouse for any customer who has a need to store rugged or finished goods in a temperature-controlled environment. The facility is expected to open in November.

"The location across the street from the Excel plant allows Nor-Am to serve Excel and many other industries within a 100-mile radius. It is very unusual that there is no cold storage facility nearby. It's a good fit for us," said Greg Brandt, Nor-Am president and CEO.

The plant will have a capacity for storing 12 million pounds. The company's range of services include freezing, cooling, dry storage, and distribution. Company officials project the facility will begin shipping between 100 and 150 trucks per week, with a projected capacity for 200 trucks per week.

Nor-Am Logistics, Inc., of Lemars, Iowa, broke ground June 20 on a 90,000 square foot cold storage facility to be built on 26 acres near Schuyler. This \$7.3 million project,

Cabela's Expands in North Platte



retail and Internet outdoor outfitter in the world. The company is the first tenant in the 125-acre Twin Rivers Business Park in North Platte.

Construction began on a \$1 million customer call center for Cabela's, the largest mail order,

Cabela's, who has been operating in North Platte since 1997, will add approximately 12 workers, bringing Cabela's total to 68 full-time and 187 part-time employees in customer service. Including seasonal employment, their North Platte facilities routinely employ more than 500 area residents. The center is anticipating to be in operation by early fall.

"North Platte is extremely pleased to know that Cabela's has the faith in our work force and in our business climate to expand their customer service center in our community," said North Platte Mayor Jim Whitaker.

Visit www.grownorthplatte.org for more information on the Twin Rivers Business Park in North Platte or contact the Development Corporation of North Platte, (308) 532-1850, devco2@hamilton.net.

Available Buildings and Labor in Beatrice

Here's a win-win opportunity for your company! Two available industrial buildings in Beatrice are closing in December 2003 leaving approximately 200 workers without jobs. These employees have light manufacturing skills, including plastic injection, tool and die, welders, machine operators, and fork lift operators as well as management and administrative skills.

Building information follows:

86,000 Square Feet



Built in 1991
76,600 sq. ft. manufacturing area
25' eave & 35' peak
9,400 sq. ft. office
5-ton crane
2 loading docks
6.7 acres

49,500 Square Feet



46,400 sq. ft. manufacturing area
3,100 sq. ft. office area
25'-35' ceiling height
column spacing is 25-40"
2 overhead doors
7.29 acres

To take advantage of this opportunity, contact Nebraska Public Power District's Economic Development Team at econdev@nppd.com, (800) 282-6773, Ext. 5534. For more information on Beatrice, visit www.beatrice-ne.com.

Study Proves Labor Availability

Gage County officials released the results of a labor availability study for southeast Nebraska in May. The study, covering two partial and five southeast Nebraska counties as well as two counties in Kansas, concluded the total population of the area was 129,731, with 20 percent or 26,432, considered to be part of the "available labor pool." Three-quarters of the labor pool has some college education and nearly 98 percent has a high school diploma. Almost one-third of the pool said they would commute up to 45 minutes for an employment opportunity.

"Potential employers often need proof of a quality labor supply before they will consider relocating or expanding their business in the area," said Linda Christle, president of Gage County Economic Development, Inc. Results of this labor study are available by contacting Gage County Economic Development, (402) 223-6650, or email lchristle@beatrice-ne.com.

COMMUNITY FEATURE

Wahoo, Nebraska www.wahoo.ne.us

Wahoo, "the Home Office of the Late Show with David Letterman," is located in eastern Nebraska within 25 minutes of Lincoln and Omaha. Full services are offered to its residents in a small town atmosphere with the amenities of two metropolitan areas nearby.

Locate your plant in the Wahoo Airpark, a 27-acre industrial site with easy access to U.S. Highway 77 leading to Lincoln and Omaha, and join other industries in the good life in Wahoo!

A main line of the Union Pacific, U.S. Highway 77 and Nebraska Highway 92, and a 4,100-foot lighted concrete runway serve Wahoo. Construction on four-laning U.S. Highway 77 from Wahoo to Lincoln will be completed in 2003, and a four-lane bypass around Wahoo is anticipated for completion in 2004. Commercial air service is available at the Lincoln Municipal Airport (30 minutes) and Omaha's Eppley Airfield (45 minutes).

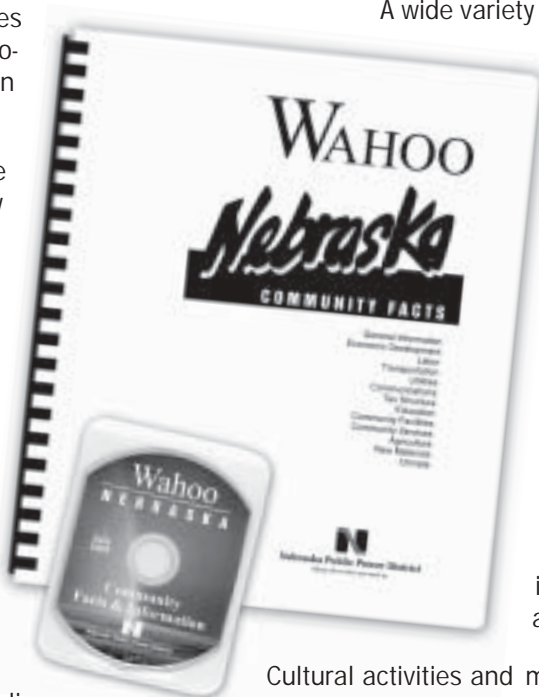
Wahoo Utilities operates the electric system and purchases wholesale power from Nebraska Public Power District and the Western Area Power Administration. Wahoo Utilities provides natural gas service to the community. The municipal water system has a maximum capacity of 2,800,000 gallons per day and the sanitary sewerage system has a daily capacity of 750,000 gallons. Alltel, with more than 1,700 miles of fiber optics, provides the telecommunications services in the Wahoo area.

Outstanding educational programs are offered through the Wahoo Public School System and a Catholic elementary and high school. Saunders County Health Services, a 25-bed critical access hospital/swing bed facility, provides the health care in the area. Haven House Living Center, with 69 beds, is a skilled care facility in Wahoo.

A wide variety of recreation programs are available in and around Wahoo. Summer programs include baseball, softball, swimming, tennis, soccer, T-ball, horseshoe, golf, basketball, volleyball, aerobics, weight lifting, racquetball, and indoor hockey. Lake Wanahoo, a 640 surface-acre lake, is being constructed just north of Wahoo. Although the primary purpose of this \$30 million project is environmental restoration, flood control and public recreation are additional benefits of the project. Sports enthusiasts will enjoy the opportunities of boating, fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, swimming, and wildlife habitat.

Cultural activities and many other attractions are available within 30 miles.

Contact Doug Watts, Wahoo Chamber and Economic Development, (402) 443-4001, watts@wahoo.ne.us, for a copy of the 44-page Community Facts Book on Wahoo. This book may also be downloaded from sites.nppd.com by searching cities.



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