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IOWA OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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Emmetsburg Named ‘Community of the Year’ for Transforming Local Economy with Iowa Power Fund and POET Project Liberty

Biofuels Digest names Emmetsburg, Iowa and Iowa State University in Annual Awards

DES MOINES (Dec. 30, 2010) – Emmetsburg, Iowa, with major investments by the Iowa Power Fund and ethanol producing giant POET, has been named ‘Community of the Year’ by Biofuels Digest in its annual awards.

Emmetsburg was honored “for the transformation of the small local community’s economy through corn and cellulosic ethanol,” according to the [magazine](#). The town is the site of the Iowa Power Fund and POET’s Project LIBERTY, the planned 25 million-gallon-per-year cellulosic ethanol operation that will use corn cobs and light stover as feedstock.

This fall, area farmers harvested 56,000 tons of biomass. By the plant’s scheduled startup in 2012, farmers will be delivering about 300,000 tons to process into ethanol.

“With the help of the Iowa Power Fund, the Emmetsburg community and POET truly are partners in commercializing cellulosic ethanol,” Project LIBERTY Director Jim Sturdevant said. “The entire community has embraced its role as a leader in the nation’s clean energy future.”

“Emmetsburg’s city officials and staff are excited to have learned of the ‘Community of the Year’ award being bestowed upon Emmetsburg, Iowa by Biofuels Digest,” City Administrator John Bird said. “This honor would not be possible, of course, had POET not chosen Emmetsburg as a home for Project LIBERTY and we are honored to claim them as our neighbor and friend.”

The Digest also recognized Iowa State University (ISU) as ‘Institutional Research Facility of the Year’. The Power Fund Board has granted several innovative energy research awards to ISU and recently awarded a \$2 million grant to fund renewable energy research at the state’s three Regents’ universities. The goal of this project is long-term economic development in Iowa through expansion of the state’s research capacity in renewable energy technologies.

“This recent Power Fund award will allow our Regents’ universities to be competitive in securing a \$20 million National Science Foundation grant,” said Roya Stanley, Director of the Office of Energy Independence. “The grant would build renewable energy research infrastructure at our Universities, enhancing Iowa’s standing as a leading renewable energy development state, while increasing the attraction for both private partners and competitive Federal energy research funding.”

About the Power Fund

The Power Fund has invested more than \$51.2 million directly in 39 competitive projects, leveraging \$320 million in energy research and development, early stage commercialization and education and information – all in the form of federal funding and private investment.

Since its creation nearly three years ago, the Iowa Power Fund has fueled success for Iowans in all three of its intended areas: creating new jobs; drawing the attention of renewable energy companies and the private investments they bring; and the growth of an industry that has made Iowa a leader in cutting-edge, value-added agriculture. For additional information please visit our website at: www.energy.iowa.gov.

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The Office of Energy Independence (OEI) sets the strategic direction for Iowa’s clean energy future by identifying goals to achieve desired results. The office will align state government efforts for achieving energy independence through partnerships with business and industry, community leaders, government and public agencies, and other stakeholders.