



**News Release**

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### **New United Ethanol RTO passes emission tests**

April 21, 2009, MILTON – The new regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO) at United Ethanol LLC successfully completed compliance emission testing during the week of Feb. 16. These test results, and data from other equipment tests performed the same week, were submitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on April 21, as required by the plant's air permit. Independent contractors performed the tests using DNR-approved methods, and DNR representatives were present during most of the testing.

The new, multi chamber RTO, installed to replace the original RTO, was brought on line in mid-December, 2008. The RTO controls emissions from distiller's grain drying operations. The emissions from the new RTO met all the requirements set by the DNR in the plant's air permit. Emission testing was also performed on one of the natural gas boilers (which generate steam for the plant), the fermentation scrubber (which primarily controls emissions from the ethanol fermenters), and the vent gas scrubber (which controls emissions from most other production processes).

Previous compliance testing on the boiler met all requirements set by the DNR, except for particulate matter (PM). Research indicated the PM results were likely inconsistent, so it was agreed to perform PM diagnostic testing to generate additional data. Three of the four diagnostic tests, and the average of the four, met the PM requirements in the permit. The fourth test was slightly more than the PM requirement. As agreed before the testing, United Ethanol will meet with the DNR to discuss the results.

The fermentation scrubber passed all requirements except for the pounds per hour with one volatile organic compound, acetaldehyde. The previous compliance emission testing showed compliance with all requirements, including acetaldehyde. United Ethanol has hired an expert consultant in scrubber design and operation to investigate the matter and will discuss it with the DNR as soon as the consultant's report is available.

Planned testing of the vent gas scrubber had to be prematurely halted because of a process interruption unrelated to the scrubber. Testing before the interruption indicated the scrubber was probably not achieving acceptable control due to the water flow rate -- even though this same rate was used in previous testing and produced required results. Based on the preliminary field data on Feb. 19, the water flow rate to the scrubber was increased 25 percent, and the data indicated acceptable control was being achieved. The water flow rate has been maintained at that higher level since the day of the test. The scrubber consultant evaluating the fermentation scrubber will also review the vent gas scrubber to ensure the higher water flow rate will maintain required emission control. United Ethanol will discuss the matter with the DNR as soon as the consultant's report is available.

Once data from this round of testing and the scrubber consultant's reports are reviewed and discussed, additional compliance emission testing will be arranged in coordination with the DNR.

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