EMMETSBURG, Iowa — August 2013 — Recent visitors to Emmetsburg, Iowa, have noticed that construction on Project LIBERTY has been going vertical for several weeks now, after all soil work and foundations were finished well on time before winter 2012/2013.

Great progress has been made on the feedstock side in preparation for startup of the facility. Despite the drought of last summer, the harvest of crop residue went as planned. POET-DSM contracts for about one ton of biomass per acre with local, participating farmers. That’s less than 25 percent of the available above-ground biomass. Project LIBERTY has contracted for 85,000 tons of biomass this year, and — once operational — the facility will require about 285,000 tons annually. POET-DSM has harvested 192,000 tons of biomass since 2010.

On the process side, construction is on schedule to start ethanol production in early 2014. Once in full production, the facility can produce cellulosic ethanol at a run rate of 25 million gallons annually. Project LIBERTY contracted from ANDRITZ, Inc., to supply a two-step biomass treatment process for commercial scale cellulosic bio-ethanol production. This technology will help draw out the available sugars in the collected biomass so it can be converted into clean-burning ethanol.

Based on both the success of its cellulosic pilot-plant trials and Project LIBERTY construction progress, POET-DSM Advanced Biofuels currently is preparing to offer U.S. ethanol producers a technology package to help them develop and operate an integrated cellulosic ethanol facility in co-location with a corn ethanol operation.

Important Facts about Project LIBERTY and Cellulosic Ethanol:

WHAT: Project LIBERTY is a commercial-scale, cellulosic ethanol plant that is scheduled to begin operations in Iowa in early 2014. The plant is expected to initially produce 20 million gallons of ethanol, growing to approximately 25 million gallons per year. It is the first project of the POET-DSM Advanced Biofuels joint venture.

HOW: Project LIBERTY will make use of corncobs, leaves, husks, and some stalk that passes through the combine during harvest. The process uses about 25 percent of the available crop residue material from nearby corn fields, leaving 75 percent on the ground for erosion control, nutrient replacement and other important farm-management practices.

WHERE: The plant will share infrastructure with the adjacent POET Biorefining facility in Emmetsburg, Iowa. Roads, land and other features will be shared, and the co-product from the cellulosic ethanol process will be energy — enough to power LIBERTY and send excess to the adjacent corn grain-based plant.

A KEY IOWA PRODUCTION BYPRODUCT: Once in commercial production, the facility is expected to deliver between 40 to 50 direct jobs in Iowa. Beside an increase in production workers, the plant also will create approximately 180 spin-off jobs in the community. Project LIBERTY will require more than 200 additional workers during construction, as well. The purchase of corn stover biomass also annually will provide $20 million to the local Emmetsburg economy.

IMPORTANT NATIONAL BENEFIT: As cellulosic ethanol production moves to full-scale production across the country, this same local economic effect could be enjoyed in as many as 200 additional communities. In all, if cellulosic ethanol production were co-located with all of the existing corn-ethanol plants in the U.S., this technology could potentially generate 10,000 direct jobs and 36,000 spin-off jobs. Not bad for a process that uses farm-crop waste as its raw material! Learn more at www.projectliberty.com.