



For Immediate Release
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E85, Inc. Plans to Open Ethanol Production Facility in Fayetteville, NC

E85, Inc., a Seattle based company, announced today that they have taken an option on lands owned by Dr. Franklin Clark in Cumberland County for the development of a state-of-the-art 100 million gallon per year ethanol plant. E85 is investing \$200 million in the project and expects to employ 40-50 people in well paid, quality jobs. E85 is working closely with the Cumberland County Business Council, which is coordinating all development efforts with the City of Fayetteville, Cumberland County, and State of North Carolina officials.

“The state of North Carolina is a great location due to its strategic location to poultry and swine producers and its proximity to major fuel-ethanol markets,” said Mark Dassel, Senior Vice President and Director. “Through the efforts of the Southeast Partnership, the Cumberland County Business Council and the N.C. Department of Commerce, we have moved very quickly on this project.”

E85 plans to build 10 ethanol plants in the United States, and intends to become a major producer and distributor of renewable ethanol motor fuels. E85 will work collaboratively with local cooperatives and farmers to build long-term strategic relationships. E85 plans to build up to two facilities in the State of North Carolina and is considering at least one additional site in the Carolinas.

“We are glad that E85 chose to locate in North Carolina,” said N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Jim Fain. “This facility will provide new economic opportunities for farmers and workers in the state, and will further the development of ethanol as a fuel alternative and can help lessen our dependence on foreign oil.”

Mr. Dassel expressed particular praise for the efforts of the North Carolina Southeast Partnership.

“Even when it appeared the site search had failed in Southeastern North Carolina, Steve Yost, Marketing Director for the Partnership, did not give up and brought the project back to visit one of the first sites represented,” said Dassel. “This was a most fortunate turn of events for our company, Cumberland County and the Southeast.”

During the course of decision-making, the NC Department of Commerce assisted the project with applications required for state incentives and particularly aided the company with the application for Rail Access Funds from the Department of Transportation. Thanks to the support of the DOT, represented locally by Mac Campbell, the project was awarded \$124,000 in access funds. Cumberland County’s new status as a Tier One County also impacted the project in a very positive way.

“With the community’s continued support and that of so many other agencies at the state and local level, we feel certain we will be able to have our facility up and running in the spring of 2008,” Dassel stated. “It is a long process from site selection to operation, but the team working with us is making it a smooth, timely process. We are very excited at the prospect of being a valued member of the local community.”

Dassel singled out Cumberland County and the City of Fayetteville Public Works Commission for their support. He also praised the support and efforts of Jim Bowman of Norfolk Southern Railroad for the assistance provided in planning the rail service and with the Rail Access Funds application. “This community and its partners are obviously very well prepared and anxious to recruit new business,” Dassel concluded. “Obviously those of us at Norfolk Southern are beside ourselves and delighted for the company and the community. We look forward to providing E85 with top quality rail transportation services,” stated Jim Bowman.

When constructed and operational, the Fayetteville facility will have created hundreds of construction jobs and will create 40 to 50 well-paid, full-time jobs. This plant will position E85 as a major supplier of renewable motor fuels in North Carolina and adjoining states.

About CCBC

The Cumberland County Business Council strives to improve quality of life by creating wealth, jobs and investment in our community. With its partners the City of Fayetteville and Cumberland County, the CCBC coordinates the community’s economic and downtown development efforts as well as provides a number of opportunities to grow local businesses.

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