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# PORTLAND BUSINESS JOURNAL

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## Sequential-Pacific breaks ground on biodiesel plant

Portland Business Journal - July 6, 2007 by [Matthew Kish](#) Business Journal staff writer

Sequential-Pacific Biodiesel LLC, Oregon's only commercial producer of biodiesel, broke ground Friday on a new facility in Salem.

When complete in the spring of 2008, the facility will allow Salem-based Sequential to produce 5 million gallons of biodiesel annually.

Dignitaries including country music legend Willie Nelson, Portland City Commissioner Randy Leonard and Salem Mayor Janet Taylor hailed the new plant as a way for Oregon to break its reliance on foreign oil while strengthening the state's agricultural economy.

Nelson called it "a great day for Oregon" as well as the nation.

Oregonians consumed roughly 2.5 million gallons of biodiesel in 2006. Sequential-Pacific predicts that will double this year.

It could skyrocket next year. A law signed by the governor this week mandates a percentage of renewable fuel in all gasoline sold in the state. The law becomes effective for biodiesel when statewide production capacity hits 5 million gallons annually, meaning it will become effective shortly after Sequential finishes the construction of the new plant.

A similar law mandating 10 percent ethanol in all unleaded fuel will kick into effect when the state has the capacity to produce 40 million gallons annually. That should happen before the end of the year.

Sequential-Pacific has produced 1.5 million gallons of biodiesel since starting production two years ago. The company is a joint venture between Portland-based Sequential Biofuels LLC and Hawaii-based Pacific Biodiesel Inc.

After the new facility is complete, the company's original plant will be removed.

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