



Port of Columbia Approved for \$15 Million Grant in Support of Strategic Biofuels Project

Infrastructure improvement grant from the Louisiana Port Construction and Development Priority Program will fund carbon negative site improvements

COLUMBIA, LA – January 19, 2022 – Strategic Biofuels, the leader in developing negative carbon footprint renewable fuels plants, and the Port of Columbia in Caldwell Parish (Port) have jointly announced that the Port has received a \$15 million infrastructure improvement grant. The grant, intended to fund site improvements, is from the Louisiana Port Construction and Development Priority Program, which is administered by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD).

Port Director Greg Richardson said, “The infrastructure improvement grant represents a major advancement for the Port of Columbia and Caldwell Parish. It allows the Port to improve the services it can offer and ultimately improve revenues. Because of the grant’s potential impact, the Port engaged Gary LaGrange, longtime Director of the Port of New Orleans, to help us navigate the grant application process. During Gary’s 15-year tenure with the Port of New Orleans he was responsible for more than \$500 million in infrastructure improvements before he retired in 2016. Our success in securing the grant confirmed the Port Commissioners’ wisdom in engaging him.”

The Port of Columbia is the site of Strategic Biofuels’ Louisiana Green Fuels (LGF) Project, and the grant will enhance the Port’s accessibility, serviceability and covers three areas of site improvement:

- Riverton Camp Road upgrade. Upgrading the current site access road to heavy industrial grade is an early requirement as it will provide immediate plant construction site entry. This work is being designed by the Port’s engineering firm Bryant Hammett & Associates, who are based in Ferriday, Louisiana). Construction for the upgrade is expected to begin mid-summer 2022.
- Rail spur construction. A 37-car rail spur will be constructed to allow access to the Union Pacific mainline that borders the port site. Engineering design, which is funded by LGF has been completed by [Hatch](#) and construction expected to begin in 2023.
- Rail overpass construction. In conjunction with LGF and DOTD, the Port has developed a thoughtful traffic pattern to ensure safe and efficient access for forestry transport trucks to and from the future plant site. The design work is being performed by [Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson, Inc.](#), who are headquartered in Alexandria, Louisiana and previously designed the Highway 165 rail overpass just north of the Port. Ensuring maximum traffic safety, the design features a new rail overpass directly into the site and a US Hwy 165 underpass using the existing highway rail overpass along with a traffic circle, eliminating all truck left turns, at-grade rail crossings and stop signs. Construction of the rail overpass is expected to begin in 2023.

Bob Meredith, Strategic Biofuels’ Chief Operating Officer and Caldwell Parish native said, “We greatly appreciate the efforts the Port has made to secure funding for infrastructure improvements. The early upgrading of Riverton Camp Road coming this summer provides strong support for LGF’s aggressive construction schedule. It allows us to begin actual plant construction as soon as the full project funding is secured, and we expect that to be in early 2023. The Port has also been a key contributor in our efforts with DOTD and Union Pacific Railroad. The strong support we’ve continued to receive from Caldwell Parish confirms the wisdom of locating the plant here.”

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About the Port of Columbia:

The Port of Columbia is a Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Certified Site located six miles north of Columbia in Caldwell Parish, LA. Certified Sites are development-ready industrial sites which have passed an extensive application process and exhaustive review by an independent, third-party engineering firm. The Port of Columbia is governed by a board of commissioners who are accountable to the Caldwell Parish government.



About Strategic Biofuels:

Strategic Biofuels LLC is a team of oil and gas, petrochemical and renewable technology experts focused on developing a series of deeply negative carbon footprint plants in northern Louisiana that convert waste materials from managed forests into renewable diesel and renewable naphtha. The fuel qualifies for substantial Carbon Credits under the Federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and under the California Low Carbon Fuels Standard (LCFS).

About Louisiana Green Fuels:

Louisiana Green Fuels is the first project by Strategic Biofuels in northern Louisiana at the Port of Columbia in Caldwell Parish. The plant and its accompanying Class VI Carbon Capture and Sequestration Wells will be the first renewable fuels project in North America to achieve “negative” carbon emissions and the most carbon-negative of any liquid fuels plant in the world. The feedstock for the plant is forestry waste from managed and sustainable forests.