

Development Authority of Wilkinson County

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PRESS RELEASE

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Farrah R. Senn,

Economic Development Director

ALTERRA BIOENERGY OF MIDDLE GEORGIA TO LOCATE IN WILKINSON COUNTY

Alterra Bioenergy of Middle Georgia, LLC, announced intentions to locate in Wilkinson County at a ceremony on site in Gordon Thursday, Dec. 21, at 10 am.

“After researching a large number of alternative site locations in Middle Georgia we settled on Wilkinson County primarily due to the positive working relationship which we have been able to establish with the Wilkinson County Development Authority and the government leaders of Wilkinson County,” said Wayne Johnson, Alterra Bioenergy president.

“Wilkinson County has clearly demonstrated a can-do and a can-do-it-now attitude towards this development opportunity. We are pleased to be locating our first plant here in Gordon.”

Johnson, a native of Macon, Ga., is a graduate of Lanier High, Mercer University and Emory University. His development activities over the past 20 years have created more than 1000 jobs. His newest venture, Alterra Bioenergy, will locate the first phase of a biodiesel production and distribution center at the site on Tremon Street in Gordon. Phase II will include a larger biofuel facility on another site in Wilkinson County. The plant facility will be capable of producing six million gallons per year of B-100 biodiesel and distributing 30 million gallons of B-20 blended biodiesel.

Johnson met with Wilkinson County Economic Development Director Farrah Senn in September concerning available land in Wilkinson County. Senn and Development Authority of Wilkinson County Chair Frank G. Wall, Jr., immediately whisked Johnson out to several sites around the county for consideration.

“I thought it was a match from day one, and that’s why we have worked so hard to make it happen,” Wall said. “We hope this is just the beginning of a long relationship.”

Senn said that she could tell after meeting and talking with him that Johnson was serious and professional, and that his company would be a “good neighbor” industry in Wilkinson County.

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“It goes without saying that I am pleased Wayne decided to locate here, and I feel strongly that his presence in this community will be an asset to the entire County,” Senn said.

The Tremon Street site was recently featured in a *GeorgiaTrend* article that highlighted Wilkinson County as recipient of a 2006 County of Excellence Award. The property, which the County acquired for delinquent taxes, was previously listed on the Hazardous Site Inventory (HSI) and hampered by a considerable state lien. The County was recognized for their efforts with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, the General Assembly and the Department of Community Affairs to remove the property from the HSI. EPD also worked with the County to release the lien on Dec. 5, 2005. At the same time, the property was turned over to the Development Authority for redevelopment. In the *GeorgiaTrend* article, Wilkinson County Manager Laura Mathis described how relieved she felt the instant she heard the lien had been released.

“That little celebratory moment I had on Dec. 5 will pale in comparison to the way I feel when the Development Authority finds an industry to locate there, and that piece of property turns into a revenue-generating, job-creating piece of land,” Mathis said in *GeorgiaTrend*.

That day has come, and Mathis is just as elated as she predicted.

Work is already underway on the site and plans are to be in operation as soon as possible. Johnson said that within the next three months the company will be able to distribute biodiesel fuel and by late summer they will be producing fuel.

Those on the program for the ceremony included Kenneth Turner, Mayor of the City of Gordon; Frank G. Wall, Chairman of the Development Authority of Wilkinson County; Dennis Holder, Chairman of the Wilkinson County Board of Commissioners; Jill Stuckey, Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) Director of Alternative Fuels; Rep. Allen Freeman, Georgia House of Representatives; A. Wayne Johnson, President of Alterra Bioenergy; Charise Stephens, Executive Director of Middle Georgia Clean Cities Coalition; and Farrah R. Senn, Wilkinson County Director of Economic Development.

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