

Superior Pellet Fuels to build plant in Fairbanks/North Pole

Local plant to bring value added wood pellet fuel production and a dozen plus high paying jobs to Interior Alaska

Superior Pellet Fuels will start construction on a 10,000 square foot wood pellet plant this spring. The plant will be built near the intersection of Badger Road and the Richardson Highway. When operational it will produce wood pellets for Interior Alaska to use as a renewable, affordable and environmentally friendly fuel source. This new business venture will create a dozen plus family wage jobs in our local community.

“We are excited to bring this facility to the area.” said Superior Pellet Fuels General Manager Chad Schumacher. “Fairbanks is a perfect location for this new venture because of the long heating season and the high dependence on heating oil.” Schumacher will be relocating to Fairbanks in March. “I cannot wait to become a part of this community and get to work.”

The Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) has been working towards establishing a wood pellet fuel plant in Fairbanks for almost three years. “It’s exciting to think that Fairbanks will be able to produce an alternative, value added fuel source that is renewable, cost effective and can help Fairbanks meet the PM 2.5 standards set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.” said Cassie Pinkel, Forestry/Biomass Project Manager at FEDC.

Superior Pellet Fuels Resource Manager Dane Crowley is pleased with how FEDC and the community worked together to get this plant built in the Golden Heart City. “The Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC), made building the plant in Interior Alaska an easy decision for us.”

Wood pellets are a cost effective, clean burning fuel with an extremely low particulate impact in comparison to conventional wood burning. More details on wood pellets can be found on the non-profit Pellet Fuel Institute website at www.pelletheat.org. The website also has calculators that show the cost of wood pellets compared to heating fuel or other fuel sources.

Construction on the plant will begin as soon as weather allows. Superior Pellet intends to use as many local contractors as possible, with the potential to bring ten to twenty construction jobs to Fairbanks. Schumacher says he expects the plant to be producing pellets and have them in Fairbanks stores by September this year.

Superior Pellet will utilize wood waste streams from local sawmills, land clearing projects, and fire breaks set by forest management in the state as the primary raw material supply.

FEDC President and CEO Jim Dodson said, “The plant is an example of private industry creating jobs and economic expansion in Fairbanks and North Pole by providing a cheaper source of heating fuel. Superior Pellet is just the kind of economic development our community needs.”