

RIVER TRANSPORT NEWS

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Gateway Terminals Loads First Ethanol Barges in Sauget

Gateway Terminals LLC inaugurated barge loading operations at its new St. Louis-area ethanol terminal last month. The terminal loaded its first 10,000 bbl tank barge with ethanol on July 24th. A second barge was loaded with ethanol on July 30th, while a third barge was being loaded as *RTN* was preparing to go to press. The facility first began receiving railed shipments of ethanol this past April to build inventory at the terminal site. Major ethanol producers and marketers, including Aventine Renewable Fuels and Hawkeye Gold, LLC, have committed to storing and moving ethanol through the new terminal.

Gateway Terminals, LLC is a joint venture that was built on a 165-acre site owned by Eagle Marine Industries near Sauget, IL at milepost 177.3 of the upper Mississippi River (see *RTN* 4/23/2007, p.4). SCF Agri/Fuels LLC, a SEACOR company, has a two-thirds ownership interest in the Gateway Terminals venture, while Eagle Marine controls the remaining one-third share.

The Gateway Terminals project was developed to provide a major transloading hub for the burgeoning Midwestern ethanol industry. The new facility, however, also has permits to handle refined petroleum products.

The terminal complex includes a new dedicated barge dock to handle outbound and inbound shipments. The dock can load and unload a typical 10,000 bbl tank barge in three and one-half to four hours.

The facility is equipped with four storage tanks, each with a nameplate capacity of 98,900 bbls. The project's developers have upgraded rail facilities on the property that will allow the terminal to accommodate 100-car unit train shipments of ethanol. The facility expects to become unit-train certified later this fall.

To date, all ethanol that has moved through the facility has arrived by rail in multi-car lots. Once large unit trains begin arriving at the site, Gateway Terminals anticipates that

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it will be able to unload a 100-car unit train carrying 70,000 bbls of ethanol in less than 24 hours. The terminal is served by the Alton & Southern and the TRRA, which gives the facility access to all Class I railroads serving the St. Louis area.

In addition to rail and barge, the terminal also is equipped with truck racks to handle both inbound and outbound truck shipments of ethanol. To date, the terminal has handled several outbound truck shipments of ethanol moving to local markets._