

### September Section Meeting: Ethanol from Cellulose

Ethanol from cellulose offers a real and present alternative for transportation fuel without many of the troublesome, although frequently erroneous, aspersions with which the corn ethanol industry is plagued. The relative carbon footprint for cellulosic ethanol, on an energy equivalent basis, is 94% less than gasoline. There are several cellulosic feedstocks readily available for conversion to ethanol, one of the largest of which is the beetle-killed pine in the western United States and Canada.

There are two additional issues concerning ethanol as a transportation fuel alternative: a) National Security and b) the Economic Health of the United States. Thirty years ago, the US imported 30% of its oil from overseas. Today we import 60% of our oil from foreign sources, which puts us in an untenable vulnerable position. We are at risk of losing the fuel needed to run the Navy, Air Force and other service branches.

The US economy would substantially improve with the shift in source of transportation fuel from off-shore to domestic. Imagine if all the money now being on foreign oil was spent inside the US!

*(continued on page 2)*

### September Section Meeting

**Topic:** Ethanol from Cellulose

**Speaker:** Glenn Sprenger,  
Director of Engineering for  
GeoSynFuels, LLC

**Date:** Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** 6:00-6:30 Registration  
6:30-7:30 Dinner  
7:30-8:30 Presentation

**Location:** Wrigley's Chicago Sports Bar Grill  
18200 W Colfax Ave  
Golden, CO 80401-4845  
(303) 277-1551

**Menu:** Mexican Buffet

**Cost:** Members: \$20  
(w/RSVP)\* Non-Members: \$25  
Students & Unemployed: \$10

Please RSVP by Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> (early RSVPs are greatly appreciated!) indicating your name, phone number, and number of attendees. Please RSVP to Martin Vorum by phone at 303-384-7414 or email at [rockyaiche@yahoo.com](mailto:rockyaiche@yahoo.com).

\*Add \$5 for attending meeting without RSVP

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Brazil has actually done this. Thirty years ago, Brazil imported 30% of their oil from foreign sources. Today they import 0.0% of their oil from off-shore. All of their cars are flex-fuel vehicles.

Mr. Sprenger holds a BS Degree in Chemical Engineering from Michigan State University. He began his engineering career in the agricultural chemical sector in 1977, with Stauffer Chemical,

where he developed and patented a novel solids sampler for granular materials. That sampler has a unique design which has no moving parts. He continued to work in the agricultural chemical industry for a total of 10 years, followed by 9 years in hazardous waste incineration, 9 years in pharmaceuticals, 2 years in petroleum refining and 2 years in renewable energy. He has extensive experience in the area of solids processing that includes fluid beds, milling, agglomeration, drying, pneumatic conveying, gas/solids and liquid/solids separations, dust collection, and storage, distribution and packaging of bulk solids.

Mr. Sprenger is currently the Director of Engineering for GeoSynFuels, LLC, a biofuels company that has developed several proprietary processes to make ethanol from cellulosic feedstocks.

## NEW MEXICO CORNER

*If you'd like to volunteer to speak at a future meeting or if you have any meeting/activity ideas, please let me know!*

Patrick Burton, New Mexico Liaison  
[pburton@unm.edu](mailto:pburton@unm.edu)

A Little Light Humor.....

### Top 10 Reasons I didn't make it in the C.I.A.

10. I talk in my sleep.
9. I'm open to bribes.
8. Thought Cloak and Dagger was a rock group.
7. License to kill was suspended.
6. When I heard there was a leak, I called the plumber.
5. My favorite dead drop site was a trash can.
4. Letter from recommendation was from Bin Laden.
3. Asked what office Jack Bauer works in.
2. Filled out application in invisible ink.
1. Thought I was applying to the Culinary Institute of America.

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## *AIChE Meetings*

### **2009**

Sept 13-19 2009 Ammonia  
Conference  
Calgary, Alberta

Nov 8-13 Annual Meeting  
Nashville, TN

### **2010**

Mar 21-25 2010 Spring Nat'l  
Tampa, FL  
San Antonio, TX

May 2-5 SBE's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Conference on Stem  
Cell Engineering  
Boston, MA

Oct 17-22 Annual Meeting  
Salt Lake City, UT

For further information, contact  
National AIChE.

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The objectives of AIChE are to advance chemical engineering in theory and practice, to maintain a high professional standard among its members, and to serve society, particularly where chemical, engineering can contribute to the public interest.

## **Rocky Mountain AIChE News Publication Schedule**

### October 2009 issue

Articles due Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

Publish on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

Meeting on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>

## **MEETING SCHEDULE**

*The Rocky Mountain District of AIChE generally meets the third Tuesday of every month, September through November and January through May.*

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