

IPC PRECAST CONCRETE BREAKS INTO ALTERNATIVE FUEL PLANT CONSTRUCTION



Central Iowa Energy Plant - Newton, Iowa

DES MOINES, IA – IPC, a Midwest leader in precast commercial construction, has found a niche in the alternative fuel industry. Known for its strength, durability, and cost efficiency, IPC's precast products have long been the material of choice for many area builders. However, its fire-resistance and its ease and speed of installation have brought it to the forefront in the construction of Iowa alternative fuel plants, specifically ethanol and bio-diesel plants.

"IPC precast concrete supports the firewall that we need," said Alex Kerrigan, project estimator for Todd and Sargent, a design/build company located in Ames, Iowa. Todd and Sargent first used IPC precast concrete in the building of the Central Iowa Energy Plant in Newton. "We use it for stairwells and for other uses, such as areas housing utility and control rooms," said Kerrigan.

Todd and Sargent also used IPC materials in the construction of Iowa Renewable Energy in Washington, Iowa. They have future plans for using IPC materials in East Fork Bio Diesel in Algona. "It's the most effective product for our use," Kerrigan added.

Western Dubuque Biofuels, located in Farley, is currently being constructed by Todd & Sargent Weitz (TSW), a partnership of Weitz Agricultural and Todd & Sargent. Erik Raker, project engineer for Weitz Agricultural identified speed as the key element in their choice for using precast in the construction of walls and floors in the Western Dubuque Biofuels plant. "Precast was the right option for our schedule," he said. He explained that cast-in-place concrete takes considerably more time and labor, making precast the preferable choice. "In our application, it's a great product. I was certainly satisfied with IPC's schedule. Electing to use precast walls and floor planks is a key element in why this project is proceeding at the pace it is," he added.



Central Iowa Energy Plant

IPC broke into alternative fuel plant construction in Iowa in 2002 when the company installed hollow core floors in the Tall Corn Ethanol Plant in Coon Rapids. Since that time, IPC has become increasingly involved in providing precast materials for stairways, walls and floors of newly constructed alternative fuel plants across the state. In 2005, IPC was awarded contracts on two noteworthy bio-diesel plant projects: the Cargill Plant in Iowa Falls, designed and built by Lurgi PSI of Memphis, Tenn. and the Iowa Energy Plant in Newton.

“IPC did a good job. They worked with us hand-in-hand, delivering on time and giving us a good product,” said David Galtelli, project purchasing agent for Lurgi PSI. The company chose IPC products because of precast concrete’s fire resistance and because IPC’s products are manufactured locally, thus eliminating long distance shipping of large panels. “It was a good order for us. We would use their products again.”

The design of alternative fuel plants calls for the use of either block or precast concrete. Precast offers considerably less installation time than block, said Mark McCaulley, senior estimator for IPC. “All of our materials come to the job site ready to tilt up,” McCaulley said. Concrete block has limitations as far as weather and installation. “Precast takes less than half the time to install than blocks. At least 5,000 to 6,000 feet of panel area can be erected per day.”

IPC has three Iowa manufacturing plants producing its materials for the alternative fuels market. IPC’s Cedar Falls and West Burlington plants manufacture precast walls used in construction, and the Des Moines plant manufactures hollow core floors and roofs.

McCaulley anticipates IPC’s involvement in helping to build alternative fuel plants increasing in the future. “Our products really lend themselves to the scope of these projects because of their fire resistance and ease of installation,” said McCaulley.

For more information on IPC products, material and projects, call call **515-243-5118**, toll free **1-800-826-0464** or visit **www.ipcprecast.com**

ABOUT IPC

Founded in 1956, IPC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cretex Corporation, a privately held company based in Elk River, Minnesota. Cretex employs approximately 2000 people in numerous locations across the Midwest, including Des Moines, Iowa with plants in Des Moines, Iowa Falls and Burlington, Iowa. IPC continually seeks innovative and economical solutions. Working with owners, architects, engineers, builders, contractors and developers, IPC creates products which lend distinctive quality to building solutions

