

**Levelland Hockley County Ethanol, LLC
Corn/Sorghum to Ethanol Production Facility
Levelland, Texas**

General Information

Client Name:	Levelland Farmers Coop Elevator Association & Levelland/Hockley County Ethanol, LLC
Project Value:	\$80,000,000
Period of Performance	March 2002 thru March 2008
Contact:	Greg Methvin, President (806) 638-5141



Project Overview

RIO Technical Services Inc. engineered, managed, and developed the planning, permitting, and subsequent development of a 40 million gallon per year corn/sorghum to ethanol production plant in Levelland, Texas. The RIO team was successful in doing feasibility analysis, construction management, and permitting of this plant, the first ethanol plant successfully permitted with the TCEQ in the State of Texas.

Scope of Work

- RIO was responsible for all environmental permitting and compliance for the project including the preparation the State of Texas New Source Air Permit application for the Ethanol Facility. RIO initiated significant interaction with design construction firm to sufficiently answer the State requirements and to demonstrate that the project is proposing the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for facility emissions.
- RIO successfully raised the private equity and secured the necessary debt in order to develop the plant. RIO also successfully negotiated with the Texas State Securities Board and obtained a waiver of accreditation levels to allow LHCE to sell monetary units to local, small investors.
- RIO obtained a \$250,000 grant for the Co-op from the USDA for feasibility study costs.
- RIO obtained a \$750,000 grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture for the City of Levelland to offset the costs for water treatment equipment. This allowed the plant to use City's effluent water for ethanol production utilizing a RIO engineered water model; RIO engineers designed an R/O system using effluent water for ethanol production. Significantly reduced water costs while simultaneously reducing the City's cost of treating their domestic wastewater.
- Project broke ground in January 2007 and began producing ethanol in March 2008. RIO's engineers worked on site with the general contractor and subcontractors, resulting in a project timeline ahead of schedule with less than 1.22% in change orders.