

Enviva Pellet Plant construction is underway

Royce Armstrong, GC Times

Released Date: 03/03/2020

With groundbreaking ceremonies and all of the preliminaries out of the way, the construction of the \$140 million Enviva wood pellet plant in the George County Industrial Park is underway and gaining speed.

“We are very pleased with the progress we have made so far,” said Maria Moreno, communications and Public Affairs Director for Enviva. “The project is proceeding as scheduled, and though rainfall has been much higher than normal for this year, it has had minimal impact to our schedule. We appreciate the town’s support as we move ahead with construction and will be sure to keep you updated on our continued progress.”

For passersby on Hwy. 198 E, huge pile drivers can be seen pounding hundreds of 50’ I-beam pilings into the ground at the back of the 100-acre site. The pilings, costing roughly \$1 million, will provide the foundation for the facility expected to produce 750,000 metric tons of high-density wood pellets to be used as fuel in power plants.

In addition to the pilings, all of which should be in place later this week, more than 103, 00 cubic yards of fill dirt have been trucked in from a local dirt pit. Reportedly, every available dump truck in George County was busy hauling dirt to the site in recent weeks.

As the project moves forward it is expected as many as 150 construction workers will be employed in building the facility. To date, some 35 construction workers are already on the job.

Construction of Enviva’s Lucedale plant is expected to take 15 to 18 months. A majority of the plant’s jobs will be filled approximately six months before the Lucedale plant begins operations. Once hiring begins, residents are encouraged to review all open positions on Enviva’s “Career Page” at www.envivabiomass.com/careers.