



High Plains

PARTNERS



Newsletter | Summer 2024

BUILDING A SKILLED TEAM

Pat Gathman accepted the offer for his new role as General Manager at High Plains Processing (HPP) with enthusiasm. He and his wife have settled into their new community and have commented that their reception has been the warmest of any place they have lived. This is a meaningful statement, considering Pat's extensive background and the numerous places he has called home.

Though he moved several times during his childhood, Pat grew up mostly in Fargo, ND, and graduated from NDSU with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He began his 23+ year career with Cargill, starting with an internship that led to the roles of Production Supervisor, Project Supervisor, Crush Manager, and Facility Manager, and included ten different plants across seven states, along with a stint in Brazil. After Cargill, Pat worked for Bunge for over two years in a soybean plant before moving on to overseeing the operations of 12 elevators for Ceres Global Ag.



Now Pat's primary objective is ensuring a successful start for HPP while building a skilled team which begins with a focus on safety. This led to Pat's first hire, Bob Way, a seasoned professional with a wealth of experience in safety coordination.

Bob is HPP's new Environmental, Health, and Safety Coordinator. He is a passionate advocate for worker safety.

Bob grew up in a small town in northern Idaho. He graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in agricultural economics and has since held various roles, from Seed Company Manager to Grain Merchandiser. His most recent role was as the Environmental, Health, and Safety Coordinator at AKG in Mitchell, SD. Bob's career in the agricultural industry coincided with the implementation of the OSHA grain standards, which greatly influenced his dedication to building a workplace culture that focuses on safety, health, and environment.

We are excited to welcome Pat and Bob to our team, and we look forward to their continued contributions to our success!

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PROJECT UPDATE

Carl Odde, Chief Operating officer

Through the end of August 2024, the High Plains Processing construction project has continued to progress on schedule. June and July marked significant milestones, including the initiation of process piping in the extraction plant, foundation work for grain bins, slip form silo placement, and the start of structural steel erection in the preparation process building. Notable progress has been made on footings and foundations across the site.

During the spring and early summer months, the site experienced significant rainfall, which caused damage to the receiving tunnel foundation. This will need to be replaced, but we are optimistic that the remediation will not significantly impact the overall project timeline. We expect the associated costs of the replacement to be covered by the builder's risk insurance policy after the deductible is met. The landscape has transformed considerably with the vertical construction of several

key structures, including the extraction plant and preparation building. The refinery building steel will start to go vertical soon.

Equipment deliveries have kept pace with the construction timeline. We have received the majority of Crown Iron Works preparation and extraction equipment, initial shipments of DeSmet US refining equipment, and various other directly procured items essential for the project.

Looking ahead to the next several months, we expect to begin siding buildings, insulating equipment and piping, and focusing on electrical work, including conduit, wire, and MCC installation. Concrete slip silo construction and grain bin construction are set to commence in early fall and expect to be completed this winter.

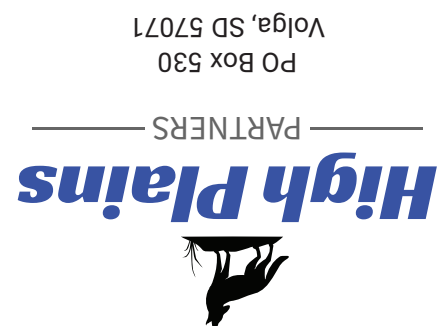




INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

This spring, we were privileged to partner with Mitchell Technical Institute and the Build Dakota Scholarship program. This partnership allowed us to interview and offer future employment to Sutton Williams as an apprentice electrician at High Plains Processing. Sutton has committed to working at HPP during the summer and for a minimum of 3 years beyond graduation.

In addition, we continue to connect with Mitchell Tech students and faculty to align our future employment opportunities with their programs and their graduates.



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