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Robert Spoerri
Beneficial Reuse Management LLC
312-784-0303
rspoerri@beneficialreuse.com

Karen Bernick
563-285-6832
agnews@karenbernick.com

Leonard Hopkins
Southern Illinois Power Cooperative
618- 964-1448
lhopkins@sipower.org

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS POWER COOPERATIVE PARTNERS WITH GYPSOIL TO DISTRIBUTE GYPSUM

MARION, IL, ([AgPR](#)), February 25, 2011 – Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) has signed an agreement with the Gypsoil Division of Beneficial Reuse Management LLC (BRM) to market gypsum (calcium sulfate) produced at SIPC's coal-fired utility plant, here. The product is marketed as Gypsoil™ brand gypsum.

Gypsoil is used by Midwestern agricultural producers to loosen tight clay soils. Over time, applying Gypsoil neutralizes the metals and chemical salts that bind to clay particles and cause poor soil structure.

“The result is a softer, more manageable soil profile,” says Ron Chamberlain, director of gypsum programs for Gypsoil/BRM. “This means there is less crusting and sealing at the soil surface, and less ponding and runoff after a rain, as well as less soil erosion.”

Deep into the soil profile, Gypsoil creates an environment that is conducive to soil organisms, including microbes as well as earthworms. These soil organisms break down organic matter and nutrients in the soil faster and better, making nutrients more available to plants, explains Chamberlain. “This helps make crops healthier and more vigorous,” he says.

MORE

Beneficial Reuse Management LLC • 212 W. Superior Street • Chicago, IL 60654 •
• 1-866-GYPSOIL (497-7645) • www.gypsoil.com •

Gypsum produced at SIPC is calcium sulfate dihydrate, $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, a byproduct of the state-of-the-art, air emission reduction system used at the plant to remove sulfur dioxide (SO_2) from flue gases.

Serving growers

“Our cooperative has a long history of fulfilling power requirements for rural communities and agricultural producers,” says Leonard Hopkins, environmental and fuels manager for SIPC. “By supplying Midwestern crop producers with gypsum, we are able to offer an important input to improve their soils and enhance their production systems.”

“Our goal is to partner with progressive organizations like SIPC to help agricultural producers gain access to sustainable resources to meet their production needs,” says Gypsoil’s Chamberlain.

For more information, visit www.gypsoil.com.

About Gypsoil

Gypsoil is a division and tradename of Beneficial Reuse Management LLC. Its mission is to make a positive impact in our customers’ soil while conserving natural resources and protecting the environment.

About SIPC

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative is a generation and transmission cooperative providing wholesale electric power to seven member distribution cooperatives and two municipals in Illinois. Annual revenues are \$150 million and assets are approaching \$800 million. SIPC owns and operates its own power supply, which consists primarily of coal-fired power plants and simple cycle combustion turbines for peaking, all of which are located near our headquarters in Marion, Illinois. SIPC also provides hydroelectric power under a purchased power agreement.

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Applying Gypsoil™ brand gypsum helps soften tight clay soils by neutralizing the metals and chemical salts that bind to clay particles and cause poor soil structure. Photo supplied by GYPSOIL/BRM, 2011.