



Colo. company to convert wastewater to fish feed

SFB Staff (Dec. 17) ♦ Oberon FMR, an Idaho Springs, Colo., aquafeed ingredient company, has paired with New Belgium Brewing Co. and the Colorado School of Mines to convert wastewater from the brewing operation into a sustainable ingredient in feed for farmed fish.

According to a report in Friday's Rocky Mountain News, the goal is to change bacteria in the brewing wastewater into a protein-rich biomass that will then be dried into granules and added to fish feed, reducing the need for fish meal.

At the New Belgium pilot production plant in Fort Collins, Colo., crews converted a water tank into a biological reactor to house the bacteria and control the conditions in which it grows. Using a proprietary process, the bacteria will be nurtured to promote growth. The biomass that results will be separated out in another tank and dried. Oberon plans to start produce up to 100 pounds of granules a day by February, and up to 500 pounds a day by the third quarter of 2008.

The project is funded by a \$1.1 million grant from the National Science Foundation and \$900,000 in venture capital financing.