

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Sid Richardson Carbon & Energy Co. announces that it will build a 24 MW power plant at the company's carbon black manufacturing facility in Big Spring, Texas.**

The new facility will utilize energy from a by-product gas stream of the carbon black process to produce electricity for internal consumption as well as export to the utility market. The power plant is expected to be operational in April 2006, and will normally generate 21 MW per hour of electricity, of which about one half will be used internally.

Sid Richardson Carbon and Energy Co.'s operating strategy focuses on operating as efficiently as possible and pursuing all practical means to remain economically viable. This \$28,000,000 capital project ensures the financial viability of the Big Spring carbon black plant, and demonstrates a strong financial commitment from the owners towards customers and employees. Operating with a strong sense of stewardship for the environment and with an obligation to minimize energy usage is essential in the chemical and energy business.

Upon completion of this project, Sid Richardson will have 54 MW of electricity generating capacity and more than 870,000,000 pounds per year of carbon black production capacity. Sid Richardson Carbon & Energy Co. operates three carbon black plants, 4000 miles of natural gas pipeline and six natural gas processing plants in Texas, New Mexico and Louisiana.

Questions can be directed to J. P. Swoope – Sid Richardson Carbon & Energy, Fort Worth Texas, 817/ 390 - 8475.

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