

Judge weighing standstill in biofuels patent fight

RANDALL CHASE - AP Business Writer - Associated Press

A federal judge in Delaware is weighing whether to maintain a standstill she ordered last month in a patent dispute between two rival biofuel manufacturers.

Butamax Advanced Biofuels, a joint venture between the DuPont Co. and BP, is asking the judge to maintain the status quo while it appeals her denial of a preliminary injunction against Colorado-based Gevo Inc.

Following that ruling two weeks ago, Gevo declared that it was free to sell its isobutanol to any customer in any market, including the fuels industry.

Butamax, which is developing biobutanol for use as a gasoline additive that has certain advantages over ethanol, says it would suffer irreparable harm if Gevo is allowed to enter the fuels market before a final court ruling on whether it is infringing on Butamax patents.

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