

Firstly I would like to note that Mr. Ross D'Elia is in no position to comment on the impact of any wood consuming project on NewPage or its facilities. He has no knowledge nor involvement in our wood procurement or production activities.

Secondly, his comment in response to this question is incorrect. The Laidlaw facility will consume sawmill residual bark, forest residues produced from unmerchantable trees and tops And WHOLE TREE WOOD CHIPS. Whole tree wood chips consume the entire bole and top of the tree, the bole being the pulpwood or roundwood portion of the tree. Therefore if the Laidlaw project consumes whole tree wood chips it will be consuming pulpwood/roundwood which means that the Laidlaw project will be in direct competition with NewPage and create an immediate impact on NewPage's ability to procure pulpwood for the Shelburne chip plant.

Thirdly the NewPage pulp and paper mill in Rumford, Maine does consume biomass and forest residues to fuel its Co-Generation boilers. Any additional biomass consuming facilities within the planned wood procurement radius will create additional competition.

**Q.What effect will the Laidlaw project have on the NewPage facility?**

A. We currently serve as a supplier for the NewPage facility. The NewPage facility uses round wood and not whole tree wood chips. Therefore, it not be in competition with Laidlaw for whole tree wood chips. In fact, I believe the Laidlaw project complement the NewPage facility and the suppliers who provide it with round wood by creating demand for a complementary wood product in the region.

Sincerely,

Tony Lyons  
Director of Fiber Supply & Governmental Affairs  
Rumford Mill  
NewPage Corporation