

From: Sean Brungot [mailto:sean@isaacsonsteel.com]

Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 12:12 PM

To: Drew, Tim

Subject: EFSEC permit application by Laidlaw

Dear Mr. Drew,

I'm writing to you as a concerned citizen of the City of Berlin. Recently Laidlaw has filed a permit application to construct and operate a 70 MW biomass plant in downtown Berlin, NH. As a citizen of this great City I believe it is my responsibility to ensure that the State thoroughly reviews this application. The State has a special obligation to ensure that this proposed plant is in the best interest of my City and does not have a significant adverse impact upon my quality of life or the quality of life of my family (particularly my young daughter). The proximity of this plant to residential neighborhoods (including my own), parks and commercial businesses means that the State should be compelled to pay extra attention to this particular project. I have many concerns including, but not necessarily limited to, the following;

- 1.) Emissions - Will the plant have proper emission & pollution controls? In particular, will multiple bag houses be utilized to limit (or eliminate) the particulate matter in the stack emissions? It has come to my attention that Laidlaw has indicated in their permit application that they don't intend to use bag houses. This seems odd given that bag-houses are a critical component of the Schiller Station (a similar plant) being operated by PSNH. Is Laidlaw trying to save money at the expense of my health and the health of my family?
- 2.) Noise - It has come to my attention that many residents across the river from the Schiller Station plant are complaining about the noise levels from that plant. This concerns me because the Laidlaw plant will be extremely close to elderly housing facilities and residential neighborhoods. Can the State assure the residents of the City that noise pollution will not be an issue at this plant?
- 3.) Grid Capacity - Does the ISO NE report regarding connection of this plant to the Coos loop take into account the Noble project (99 MW) and the Clean Power project (29 MW) which are both ahead of Laidlaw in the Queue? If not then I believe the report is flawed.
- 4.) Wood supply - Does the Landvest study done for Laidlaw problem take into account all of the users of the "wood basket" here in Northern NE? If not, does this plant threaten forest sustainability in Northern NH (which has already suffered considerably due to the current practice of liquidation harvesting)? Forest sustainability needs to be a high priority as the State considers this permit application. After all, our forests are our #1 resource here in Northern NH.
- 5.) Financing - What kind of power purchase agreement does Laidlaw have with PSNH? Sworn testimony from PSNH at a recent PUC hearing would lead one to believe that there is no agreement between PSNH & Laidlaw. Such long term PPA's are generally required to obtain financing on a project of this magnitude. If there is a PPA (which PSNH denies) what are the terms of the agreement? Do these terms have a negative impact upon electric rate payers and/or other companies currently utilizing this wood basket? Will this plant drive up wood prices and put other companies that utilize this wood basket out of business?
- 6.) Existing contamination - This site is a Brownfield site with serious mercury contamination. Has the permit application addressed how plant construction & operation will affect the site contamination? Is there any danger that additional mercury pollution into the Androscoggin River will result?

I thank you for taking the time to review my concerns. While I understand that this proposed plant is being constructed on private property that is zoned for industrial use, I still strongly urge the State to carefully review the permit application to ensure that the health and quality of life for the residents of the City are properly protected. This is no small plant and those of us living around it are extremely concerned. The proximity of this plant to the local population means that you and others at the State level should be compelled to examine this permit application with extra special care. I pray that politics will not take precedence over the protection of the citizens here in Berlin and throughout Northern NH.

Please do not hesitate to call me should you wish to discuss this matter further. Again, I thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Sincerely,
Sean Brungot
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