



NH DEPT. OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

JUL 14 2010

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CITY OF BERLIN

Office of the Mayor

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Mr. Thomas Burack, Chairman  
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

July 12, 2010

Dear Chairman Burack,

I am writing this letter to you and the NH EFSEC members in my official capacity as Mayor of Berlin. I take very strong offense to Clean Power Development's Mel Liston assertion that Laidlaw Berlin Biopower's project (Docket No. 2009-02) will "negatively affect the orderly development of the region or the environmental integrity of our working forest". I have lived, worked, and recreated in Berlin my entire life, even when the Brown Company and the subsequent owners of the pulp mill was a market for the region's low grade wood. At it's peak, the pulp mill would consume about a million tons annually of low grade wood and chips. The operation was an integral part of the wood harvesting ecosystem here in Coos County. High grade sawlogs typically went to lumber and furniture manufacturers and the tops, branches and "junk" trees would end up in the Burgess Mill woodyard.

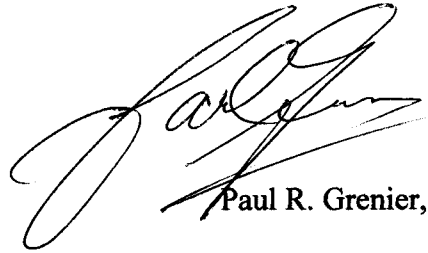
Mr. Liston's pre-trial testimony which you received on May 26, 2010 cries of misinformation and self interest. Certainly, Mr. Liston and Mr. William Gabler both have a strong personal fiduciary interest in preventing the Laidlaw project from ever receiving a site certificate of operation from your committee. Quite the opposite from Liston and Gabler's testimony, I feel the Laidlaw project will be a catalyst for further job creation in the Berlin/Gorham area. With a significant amount of excess steam and hot water, the surrounding communities as well as Laidlaw would greatly benefit from "orderly development" within their borders. Berlin benefits from job creation and Laidlaw benefits from having other entities on their site purchasing energy and sharing land use expenses.

The continued long term availability of wood in Coos County has been the subject of many studies over the years. In fact, the North Country Council, in collaboration with the NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) released a study about 20 months ago which goes to the heart of the matter. The study by LandVest, Inc. states that about 640,000 tons of low grade wood are available in the study area annually with as much as 1,000,000 tons

possible, just in Coos County. Laidlaw projects to purchase about 750,000 tons annually, and that really is the crux of Clean Power Development's issue. It seems they are attempting to use the regulatory process to best financially position their project, which did not come under your jurisdiction. I continue to support both proposed projects trying to set up shop in Berlin, but the marketplace, not needless and undue regulation, should determine which, if any, materializes beyond the drawing board.

Coos County is the poorest county in NH. It also has the lowest per capita income, the highest county tax burden, and has the highest median age of any county in New Hampshire. The Laidlaw project will inject badly needed new money in Berlin and Coos County. In my view as Mayor of Berlin, Laidlaw Berlin Biopower is the most significantly positive new economic development project for this area in over 30 years. It is my wish as well as those of my constituents that an orderly review of Laidlaw's application result in the issuance of a site certificate of operation before the end of summer.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul R. Grenier', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Paul R. Grenier, Mayor