

## Seneca's Wood Fueled Power Plant – Is it Green?

Seneca is proposing to build a wood-fired power plant at their West Eugene headquarters. It's being promoted as a green and renewable energy, because they intend to use mill waste (wood debris) as fuel.

### Is it Green?

- **The plant will emit approximately 500 tons of pollutants into West Eugene's air every year.**
- Many of the pollutants are known to cause cancer, heart disease, and respiratory illness.
- The plant would be Eugene's largest source of styrene (a carcinogen), acetaldehyde (a carcinogen), hydrogen chloride (causes respiratory illnesses), & naphthalene (a carcinogen).
- The power plant would be Eugene's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest source of formaldehyde (a carcinogen).
- The power plant will be the 4th largest emitter of toluene (a carcinogen).
- The plant will emit more pollutants in our air than a natural gas plant with the same capacity.
- The plant requires 32 tons of wood/hour.

#### LRAPA's Role

LRAPA is the local government agency responsible for air quality. Seneca must obtain a permit from LRAPA to operate. LRAPA can dictate requirements in the permit, such as stronger pollution control technology.

### Air Pollution (Nitrogen Oxides)

- The plant will emit 186 tons of NO<sub>x</sub> per year.
- According to the EPA, NO<sub>x</sub> causes respiratory problems and aggravates heart disease. It can damage lung tissue, and cause premature death.
- NO<sub>x</sub> is a main component of ground-level ozone and contributes to global warming.
- The power plant would be the 4<sup>th</sup> largest emitter of NO<sub>x</sub> in Lane County and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in Eugene.
- Seneca currently proposes to reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by 45% with Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR).
- They could reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by 70% with Regenerative Selective Catalytic Reduction (RSCR).
- Four similar power plants already use such technology.
- The California Air Board recommended RSCR for a similar power plant in Weed, CA.

### Air Pollution (Carbon Monoxide)

- The plant will emit 200 tons/year of CO.
- According to the EPA, CO can trigger serious respiratory problems and even at low levels is a serious threat to people with heart problems.
- The power plant would be the 7<sup>th</sup> largest emitter of CO in Lane County and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in Eugene.
- Seneca could reduce CO emission by 50% with RSCR.

#### EWEB's Role

EWEB is currently considering whether to purchase power from the proposed plant. They have no legal authority over the plant, but they can negotiate certain requirements in the contract.



## Air Pollution Fines and Limits

- Emissions should be monitored regularly and accurately, so we KNOW what's being put into our air.
- Seneca's air pollutant permit should include strict language for pollutant reporting.
- Fines should be explicitly stated in LRAPA's air discharge permit and strictly imposed.

## West Eugene and Air Pollution

- Almost all of Eugene's industrial air pollutant sources are located in West Eugene.
- Residents of West Eugene are also exposed to air pollution from rail yard operations and heavy traffic.
- The Seneca plant will add to that burden.
- LRAPA, EWEB, Seneca and other industries with a high amount of air pollutants could fund an ambient air toxics monitor to accurately measure the general level of pollutants in West Eugene's air.

### Contact LRAPA

Send LRAPA Board e-mail to: [lrapa@lrapa.org](mailto:lrapa@lrapa.org)

Or call: (541) 736-1056

Written communications can be sent to:

LRAPA

1010 Main St

Springfield, OR 97477

## Forests for Fuel

- The plant requires 32 tons of wood/hour.
- Despite assurances that Seneca doesn't think forests will be cut to supply fuel, EWEB should request a guarantee that no forests will be cut to fuel the plant.

## What You Can Do

Contact the EWEB and LRAPA Boards and tell them you're concerned about the level of air pollutants and where the wood supply will come from. Urge them to do whatever it is in their power to:

1. Require Seneca to use Regenerative Selective Catalytic Reduction to reduce NOx and CO emissions.
2. Use continuous monitoring for as many pollutants as possible. Where not possible, use regular and accurate sample monitoring.
3. LRAPA should include strict language for pollution reporting and explicit language for fines when Seneca exceeds limits.
4. EWEB should get a guarantee in writing that forests will not be cleared to fuel the power plant.
5. Work with Seneca and other West Eugene industries to fund an ambient air toxics monitor in West Eugene.

### Contact EWEB

You can e-mail the EWEB Board at:

<http://www.eweb.org/ContactUs.aspx?id=20>

Written communications can be sent to:

EWEB

PO BOX 10148

Eugene, OR 97440

Go to [www.oregontoxics.org/AQ/Seneca/seneca.html](http://www.oregontoxics.org/AQ/Seneca/seneca.html) for more.