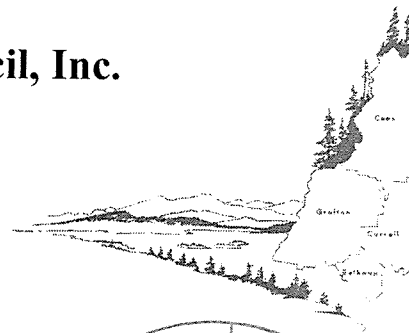


**North Country  
Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, Inc.**

**2 Airport Road, Unit 1, Gilford, New Hampshire, 03249**

**Phone: 603-527-2093**

**www.nhracd.net**

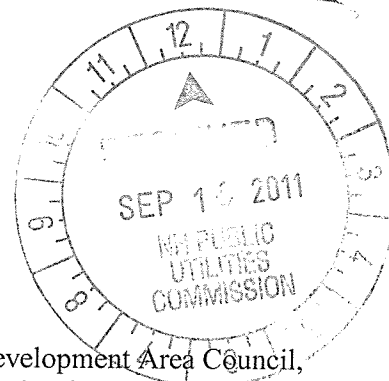


September 13, 2011

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301-2429

**RE: Docket Number DE-11-184; Joint Petition for Approval of Power Purchase and Sale Agreements and Settlement Agreement**

Dear Commissioners:



I write this letter as the Chair of the North Country Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, authorized by the US Secretary of Agriculture to develop and carry out a strategic plan for natural resource and community improvement in Belknap, Grafton, Carroll and Coos counties in NH. The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate our organization's support of expedited approval by the Commission of the Joint Petition for Approval of Power Purchase and Sale Agreements and Settlement Agreement filed in the above-referenced docket.

The five existing wood-fired power plants, support manufacturing and forestry jobs, provide property tax revenues, help improve our forest resource base and provide other local economic benefits all of which are of great importance to our community and our region of the state. These many benefits will be continued under the proposed contracts but without these contracts the continued viability of the biomass generation plants and the benefits they provide are put at critical risk.

In the current difficult economic conditions of our region, state and nation, we simply cannot afford to lose more jobs, tax revenues, or to do without the other important local benefits these plants have provided for many years and continue to provide today. I urge the Commission to approve the five power purchase agreements with these plants at the earliest possible time.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

*Lisa Rixen*

Lisa Rixen  
Chair, North Country Resource Conservation & Development Area Council