

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

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September 12, 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- Request for Support**

Dear Commissioners:

I am the Executive Director of the North Country Resource Conservation and Development Area Council. North Country RC&D was authorized by the US Secretary of Agriculture to develop and carry a strategic plan for natural resource and community improvement in Belknap, Grafton, Carroll and Coos counties in NH and has been during so since 1967. The North Country RC&D Area Council has been a leader in the development and growth of renewable energy, particularly wood biomass generated energy in New Hampshire's "north country" for decades. I strongly feel it is important to approve an 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.

Wood fired electrical generation supports manufacturing and forestry jobs, provides property tax revenues, helps improve our forest resource base and provides 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 renewable wood fired energy generation plants and the benefits they provide are severely threatened and their future put in jeopardy.

In these times and economic conditions, we cannot afford to lose jobs, tax revenues, or lose 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 as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Richard DeMark

Executive Director, North Country Resource Conservation & Development Area Council

