

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Executive Council

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JOHN H. LYNCH, GOVERNOR

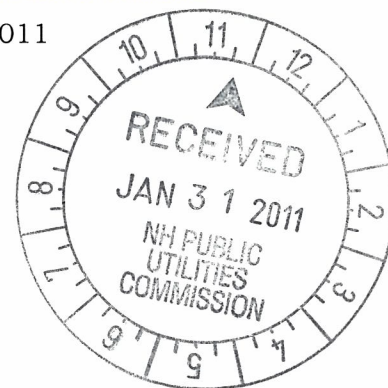
EXECUTIVE COUNCILORS:
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RAYMOND J. WIECZOREK

DANIEL I. ST. HILAIRE
DAVID K. WHEELER

January 27, 2011

Ms. Deborah Howland
Executive Director & Secretary
New Hampshire PUC
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429



RE: Docket Number DE-10-195 (Laidlaw Berlin BioPower Project)
REQUEST VENUE CHANGE FROM CONCORD TO BERLIN

Dear Ms. Howland,

This letter is being provided to the Public Utilities Commission in order to respectfully request that, in the event the Laidlaw Berlin BioPower hearings carry over to February 8th or beyond, such hearings be held and concluded in the City of Berlin rather than in Concord, NH.

Even though the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee held their public hearing in Berlin and the community showed overwhelming support for the Laidlaw project, we feel that the PUC would benefit immensely from experiencing that same show of support and input from local citizens.

This project is vital to the economic well being of our region. The Laidlaw biomass plant will purchase an additional 750,000 tons of wood chips annually which will inject \$25,000,000 more into the New Hampshire economy and create sustainable long term jobs with good benefits. This project will also immediately create up to 470 construction jobs! With the closure of the Fraser mill and the layoff of over 220 workers, the construction jobs are critically needed because they most fit the manual labor skill sets of the mill workers. In the long term the Laidlaw project will create 240 permanent direct and indirect jobs. Unemployment in the Berlin NH MicroNECTA area jumped from 5.4% to 9.0% in November of 2010 following the mill closure. These unemployed workers currently require substantial social assistance from the state and others. We need these jobs.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to transfer the PUC hearings to the City of Berlin, "The city that trees built".

Sincerely yours,

Raymond S. Burton
Executive Councilor

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