

ATTACHMENT LKS-1



Coös County Commissioners' Office

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West Stewartstown, N.H. 03597
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February 10, 2010

NH DEPT. OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

FEB 10 2010

RECEIVED

Thomas S. Burack, Chairman
Site Evaluation Committee
NH Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Application of Laidlaw BioPower, LLC: Docket No. 2009-02

Dear Chairman Burack:

This letter is written in response to your order dated January 26, 2010 accepting the Laidlaw BioPower, LLC application for Certificate of Site and Facility for a 70 MW Biomass Fueled Energy facility in Berlin.

The Coös County Commissioners wish to notify the Committee that they are in full support of this project. Historically, Coös County's renewable forests served as the engine for a solid economy. That past economic base built on the pulp and paper industry has essentially faded away during the last few years and to put it simply, Coös County is hurting right now.

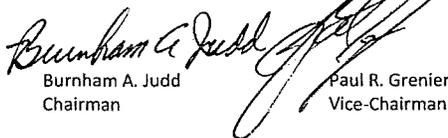
The well paying jobs that the Laidlaw BioMass facility will generate in the woods, at the new facility, and in small businesses that support the timber harvesting industry will go a long way to help revive our North Country economy. The unemployment rate in Coös County today is 9.3%. Certainly re-training of former employees of the mills and the forests is on-going but many of our citizens have worked in timber harvesting and trucking for years; it is a way of life that they long to return to. That opportunity exists for them if the Laidlaw facility is permitted and built.

The project fits well with Governor Lynch's executive order which proclaimed that by 2025, New Hampshire would be providing 25% of its energy requirements from renewable sources. Additionally, Laidlaw's capital investment of millions of dollars in a generating facility will improve the property tax base in Berlin and Coös County resulting in a reduction in the property tax burden on the average home and small business owner. This, with the approval of your committee, will take place without environmental degradation and harm to our growing tourism industry.

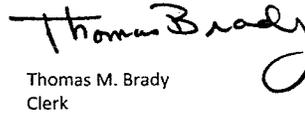
We encourage members of your designated subcommittee to approve the application expeditiously so that construction can begin at the earliest future date possible.

We thank you for taking into consideration our supporting remarks on the Laidlaw project.

Sincerely,


Burnham A. Judd
Chairman

Paul R. Grenier
Vice-Chairman


Thomas M. Brady
Clerk

COMMISSIONERS

BURNHAM A. JUDD, PITTSBURG • PAUL R. GRENIER, Berlin • THOMAS M. BRADY, JEFFERSON

ATTACHMENT LKS-2

Community EFSEC Advisory Committee
961 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570
603-752-2733

March 10, 2010

Thomas S. Burack, Chairman
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
c/o New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Dear Chairman Burack:

The Community EFSEC Advisory Committee ("CEAC") is a local Berlin community committee which was organized by the Androscoggin Valley Economic Recovery Corporation ("AVER") as a non-board community committee. AVER had formed a similar committee to work on the Berlin Federal Prison project and has been engaged in numerous other economic and community development projects. The CEAC is an all volunteer committee and a list of its members is attached as Exhibit A. Once formed, the CEAC developed its Statement of Purpose attached as Exhibit B.

The CEAC held public meetings and worked for approximately nine months to develop a list of recommended stipulations and general recommendations for the Laidlaw biomass project as it relates to the community. Attached as Exhibit C is a list of the recommendations as approved by CEAC. The CEAC negotiated extensively with Laidlaw in developing these recommendations and it is our understanding that we are in general agreement regarding their content. Also, attached are before and after simulated photographs which pertain to Appearance Issue #1. The CEAC approved all recommended stipulations unanimously (16-0) except for Community Benefit Issues recommendations #7 and #10, and County and State Wide Issues #2 and #3 which were approved by all except one committee member (15-1).

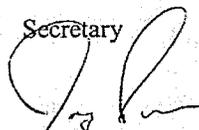
These results will be presented to the Berlin City Council and to the Coos County Commissioners and are available to other interested parties as well. It is our understanding that the Berlin City Council and the Coos County Commissioners will use them as input to their intervener positions. Please contact us if there are any questions. Thank you.

Chairman



Max Makaitis

Secretary



Jay Poulin



961 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570
(603) 752-2733

September 9, 2010

Thomas S. Burack, Chairman
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
C/o New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Re: SEC Docket No. 2009-02

Dear Chairman Burack:



This letter is being provided to express full support for the Laidlaw Berlin BioPower, LLC biomass project in Berlin and request the Site Evaluation Committee's (SEC) and the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) timely approval of all necessary regulatory requirements. The Androskoggin Valley Economic Recovery Corporation (AVER) is extremely supportive of the effort to bring the Laidlaw project to completion for the substantial economic benefits that it would create for the region. This support is contingent on the "City of Berlin Proposed Certificate Conditions" (stipulations) being made a part of the site certificate. We understand that those conditions have been agreed to by the City of Berlin and Laidlaw.

The timely approval of this project by the SEC and PUC, so that it can commence this year, is critical to the realization of substantial federal benefits and community benefits. These potential benefits could be lost in the event of unnecessary procedural delays. They include:

- \$44.5 million in federal New Market Tax Credit Authority
- \$2.25 million of the NMTC as a Community Loan Fund
- \$2.25 million of matching leveraged funds from the Community Loan Fund
- \$250,000 of the NMTC in grants for job, equipment, safety and responsible forestry practices training.
- \$20 million in ARRA Recovery Zone Facility Bond Financing Authority
- \$500,000 City of Berlin, NH Targeted Economic Development Funding

Additional Community benefits include:

- A "River Walk" along the Androskoggin River for community use
- An ATV/Snowmobile trail along Hutchins and Coos Streets
- Landscaping and new fencing
- Sponsorship of local events and social activities
- Plant tours to educate and promote alternative energy
- Low cost thermal energy to the Fraser plant and other collocating businesses.
- Priority hiring of local workers
- Local purchases of biomass
- A community parking lot
- A student intern program to develop alternative energy.

These benefits are too important to our economy and local jobs to be lost and the project jeopardized due to unnecessary procedural delays.

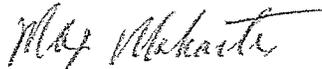
AVER along with its partners have worked for years to help create economic development and jobs in the region. The retention and creation of jobs in our region and Coos County has been a priority for AVER. One of the primary messages we have heard from our community was the desire to create good paying jobs with benefits and jobs that would not be lost to China or other overseas foreign competition. Biomass energy facilities, including Laidlaw's and Clean Power's, satisfy these requirements. Biomass energy facilities in essence "manufacture" electrons which currently cannot be imported from overseas. This project would displace foreign imported oil and help reduce the region's high level of unemployment especially in the forest products industry. It is estimated that the Laidlaw project would create over 240 jobs without considering multiplier effects. Laidlaw would be purchasing over \$20,000,000 annually of wood product from local and regional wood products suppliers. The construction phase would create up to 470 jobs and infuse tens of millions of dollars into the local and regional economies.

The Androscoggin Valley and all of Coos County have enormous potential for the development of the renewable alternative energy industry. The Laidlaw biomass project contributes significantly to the orderly development of the alternative energy industry in the region. In order to achieve this economic development, approval by the SEC and PUC is required and AVER is advocating for and supporting such approval.

As the Chair of the Community EFSEC Advisory Committee, a community advisory committee formed to address the residents' concerns about the Laidlaw project, we reviewed all of the issues raised. All of the issues had manageable solutions and in addition Laidlaw would provide substantial community benefits. The City of Berlin and Laidlaw have agreed to a final list of proposed certificate conditions.

We believe the long-term success of this project will impact the regional economy favorably and will help to sustain and create jobs and move New Hampshire forward in the renewable energy arena. Thank you for your favorable consideration of this very positive and worthwhile project.

Sincerely yours,



Max Makaitis
Androscoggin Valley Economic Development Director

Cc. Deborah Howland
Executive Director & Secretary
NHPUC
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429
RE: Docket Number DE10-195 (Laidlaw Berlin BioPower Project)