

Howland, Debra

To: Getz, Tom

Subject: RE: Eastern Construction Management, LLC

-----Original Message-----

From: Raymond S. Burton [mailto:cmp2kdm4@myfairpoint.net]

Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2009 6:44 AM

To: Getz, Tom

Subject: Eastern Construction Management, LLC

Tom this is a letter to you urging action soon for Coos County. my thanks- Ray Burton



ECM-Eastern Construction Management, LLC.
Construction Managers ♦ Consultants ♦ Estimators ♦ Schedulers

27-August-2009

Mr. Ray Burton
State of NH, Governors Council
NH State House, Room 207
Concord, NH

Dear Mr. Burton

I have recently become aware of docket 09-067 at the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission and the fact that Public Service New Hampshire (PSNH) is not doing everything possible to foster the development of shovel ready renewable energy facilities in northern New Hampshire. Key to that is the apparent attitude of PSNH that they can pick which is the preferred renewable energy project for Coos County.

It is widely acknowledged that the North Country in general and Berlin in particular, has suffered significant economic recession in recent years. When businessmen view the prospects for recovery it appears that improvement in the near term, as well as the long term, would be significantly aided through the development of a stable, well managed biomass fueled combined heat and power facility in the region.

A biomass combined heat and power (CHP) facility would employ hundreds of local workers over the anticipated 2 year construction period. Then, when operational, it would provide employment for hundreds more working directly in the plant and in the woods providing fuel for the facility. Additionally, such a facility has the ability to stimulate spin off efforts that would contribute significantly to the long term economic stability of the region.

There are 2 renewable energy projects currently being proposed in the Berlin area, but based upon my analysis, there is 1 that clearly stands out as having all the benefits I am talking about, this project deserves our support. Clean Power Development is the obvious choice as the best opportunity for Berlin and the northern New Hampshire area. In spite of this fact, PSNH will not even talk to them about purchasing power.

First and perhaps most importantly, in the analysis is the fact that Clean Power Development (CPD) has an agreement to supply low cost steam to the Fraser Paper Mill in Gorham. Their design as a true CHP facility is an incredible asset, as is their willingness to assist Fraser. This will help preserve those jobs and Fraser and possibly even allow them to expand their operation and employ more workers in the area. As a CHP facility, not only will their ability to provide steam and hot water be beneficial to the area, but it will result in more efficient use of the wood waste in the region.

While I'm not an expert in the regional transmission system or the Coos Loop, I've learned that CPD is first in the line to interconnect to the grid and can interconnect without the major rebuild that would be required if the other potential plant were to move forward.

I know, from talking to leaders in the community, that CPD is widely respected in the community and has gone out of their way to work with the city in every aspect of their project. They have apparently found the optimum location within the city and are working to do everything possible to make this a picture perfect project for Berlin. (Even including designing the facility to look like a large barn)

Another area, in which I'm not an expert, but have been well advised, is that of wood biomass availability. While some would argue that we have an unlimited supply of trees to cut down, a wide variety of factors seem to be limiting what is actually available in the region. That, coupled with a concern that overuse of the supply could adversely impact paper operations and harm existing

biomass power plants, cause me to look very seriously at which project is the right size. Based on what I've learned, I'm convinced that CPD's Berlin project is the right size.

Finally, the most intangible of the factors, but perhaps the most intriguing is CPD's openness to a vast array of uses for their thermal and electrical output. Their interest in exploring ways to use of the plants power output to stimulate new entrepreneurial endeavors, new businesses and perhaps a whole new segment to the regional economy is fantastic.

With all of the factors taken into consideration, CPD is the clear choice and I believe that we all need to do all within our power to see this project through. It is my hope that the NH PUC will give serious weight to the issues raised by CPD in docket #09-067 and do everything possible to bring PSNH to the table to negotiate a power agreement with CPD. In the interests of jobs and economic recovery in Coos County, it would be better if this happened as soon as possible so CPD can bring expanded employment opportunities right away and an improved economic outlook for a part of our state that is in the most need.

Regards,

Christopher H. Hodge, President
ECM-Eastern Construction Management, LLC