Anti-Biomass Incineration and Forest Protection Campaign
www.energyjustice.net 1-800-729-1363

Documentation of Biomass Incinerators Using Whole Trees

By Mary S. Booth, Ph.D, and Alex Formuzis, Environmental Working Group

http://www.ewg.org/agmag/2010/06/did-they-really-say-that-see-for-yourself/

I. Evidence that whole tree chips are a common fuel for <u>existing</u> biomass incinerators

1. Massachusetts: *"The Fitchburg Power Station is a 17 MW waste wood- and landfill gas-fired power facility. The facility burns whole-tree chips."*
http://www.suezenergyna.com/utilities/documents/Fitchburg.pdf

2. New Hampshire: "*Tamworth Power Station is a 22.5 MW waste wood power facility… the facility uses wood from trees unsuitable for lumber or pulp."*
http://www.suezenergyna.com/utilities/documents/Tamworth.pdf

3. New Hampshire: *"The Bethlehem Power Station burns low quality wood, which is continuously<u>replenished through the natural forest cycles</u>. The facility uses approximately 675 tons (per day) of whole-tree chips."*
http://www.suezenergyna.com/utilities/documents/Bethlehem.pdf

4. Vermont: *"The Ryegate Power Station burns 250,000 tons of whole-tree chips per year."*
http://www.suezenergyna.com/utilities/documents/Ryegate.pdf

5. Vermont: McNeil Station (Burlington Electric) "*Seventy percent of the wood chips that fuel the McNeil Station are called <u>whole-tree chips</u> and come from low quality trees and harvest residues. <u>The trees</u>, a majority of which are on privately owned woodlands, <u>are cut and chipped in the forest…</u> To run McNeil at full load, approximately 76 tons of whole-tree chips are consumed per hour. That amounts to about 30 cords per hour (there are about 2.5 tons of chips per cord of green wood)."* https://www.burlingtonelectric.com/page.php?pid=75&name=mcneil

McNeil Station (Burlington,VT)

II. Evidence that whole trees will be the fuel of choice for future biomass incinerators

1. New Hampshire, Laidlaw Energy: "*The Berlin biomass-energy project (the "Berlin Project") will be one of the largest biomass-energy facilities in the United States… and will utilize in excess of 700,000 tons of clean, whole-tree wood chips per year in order to generate approximately 65 megawatts of electricity, thus generating substantial local economic activity for loggers, truckers and other local businesses. The fuel source for the Berlin Project will be whole-tree wood chips and other low-grade wood.* http://www.laidlawenergy.com/berlin-nh-project.html

2. New Hampshire: Schiller Station: *"Currently, PSNH's Schiller Station in Portsmouth operates three 50 megawatt coal-fired steam boilers built in the 1950s. PSNH will replace one of these coal boilers with a new fluidized-bed boiler. This state-of-the-art boiler will burn whole-tree wood chips and other clean low-grade wood materials to generate electricity."* http://www.psnh.com/Energy/ENERGYPROJECT/NWPP/print-faqs.html

3. Ohio (from EWG's report): "The enormous Beckjord coal plant seeks to re-fire with biomass. They answer, in a response to the question about fuel sources, that *"the most likely initial fuel will be woody biomass produced by whole-tree chipping" and will "likely be local within a 50 mile radius of the coal landing terminal*…" (Beckjord Response to Interrogatories, Case No. 09-10230EL-REN; filing with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio).