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## **Seneca Sustainable Energy Overview of the Plant August 24, 2009**

Seneca Sustainable Energy, a renewable heat and power facility, will generate up to 19.8 megawatts of electricity and provide heat for Seneca Sawmill's dry kilns. Operable by the end of 2010, it will be built on six acres on Seneca's Highway 99 site, north of Eugene. This location provides maximum efficiency for using biomass from the sawmill operations to produce steam for the mills' dry kilns, as well a strategic connection to the local power grid. 100 percent of the electricity generated by the plant will be sold to EWEB and will meet the annual energy needs of more than 13,000 homes.

**How much will the facility cost?** \$45 million, with \$11 million of that amount spent on pollution control technology

**How many new jobs will be created?** 11 new, permanent family-wage jobs will be created to operate the new facility. Additionally, 90 craftspeople will build it.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Exceeds all LRAPA standards and uses best practices for generating energy from woody biomass. The LRAPA permit issued on October 9, 2009, provides protections while allowing a project that produces local energy to move forward.

### **BENEFITS**

- Meets Oregon's Renewal Portfolio Standards that require utilities to acquire power from renewable sources, including woody biomass, solar and wind:
  - By 2011 = 5% of power
  - By 2025 = 25% of power
  - 30 states have similar requirements
  - Congress is currently considering a national standard
- Makes effective use of wood byproducts and forest residuals.
  - Reduces air pollutants emitted to the atmosphere from slash burning
  - Eliminates carbon emissions from natural gas, which is currently used to power the dry kilns
  - Reduces carbon and other air pollutant emissions by reducing truck trips
- Mitigates global climate change by using biomass for energy generation, which is recognized as carbon neutral.
  - Moves to reduce carbon footprint: Supported by Governor's office and Oregon Department of Energy
  - Reduces truck trips to and from Seneca mill by more than 4,000 net trips annually
  - Produces lower greenhouse gas levels than alternative slash disposal options

- Contributes to local power self-sufficiency
  - Provides 19.8 MW of firm power that can be part of EWEB's base load
  - Provides firm, reliable power source
    - Avoids reliance on nature, e.g. wind and solar power (non-firm sources). Good balance with those sources. Fills a need when wind and solar aren't available.
    - Local resource saves transmission losses in power delivery.
  - Power purchase agreement negotiated with EWEB
    - Fits EWEB's portfolio standards, which were developed with public input. Biomass was ranked as a preferred resource.
    - Generated locally
    - Does not have a future carbon cost to EWEB
    - Mitigates global climate change by using biomass for energy generation, which is recognized as carbon neutral.
    - Benefits EWEB's customers by providing local electrical reliability and voltage stability

## **STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY**

- |                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Obama Administration | • Eugene Water & Electric Board |
| • Governor Kulongoski  | • The Register-Guard            |
| • Mayor Piercy         | • The Oregonian                 |

"I want you to know that I am committed to making Oregon a national leader in forest biomass energy development. ... Our forests make biomass a natural fit for Oregon. We will be able to reduce the risk of forest fires by removing dry debris – and then use that debris to generate energy, all the while creating jobs, attracting new businesses, and shifting our economy into a higher gear." *Governor Ted Kulongoski, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Summit, Jan. 2006*

"Wood waste is one of the most abundant, cost-competitive, and environmentally friendly biomass resources. Currently the most cost-effective wood sources are residues from manufacturing and wood waste otherwise destined for landfills." *Federal Energy Management Program of U. S. Department of Energy*

"Oregon needs more high-efficiency biomass burners. They help with America's energy independence, reduce global warming pollution, create jobs and make industry more efficient. Just as important, we need biomass burning facilities to restore health to Oregon's forests. Millions of forest acres are overgrown with brush and small trees, putting them at risk of insect outbreaks and unnaturally severe fire. The woody debris that results from restoring healthy conditions to our forests is a tremendous source of renewable energy. This is a winning solution for people and nature alike." *Russell Hoeflich, Oregon Director, The Nature Conservancy*