

For Office Use Only Executive Office of Environmental Affairs MEPA Analyst: <i>Beiong Angus</i> Phone: 617-626-1029
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NPC

Notice of Project Change

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review of a NPC in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations (see 301 CMR 11.10(1)).

Project Name: Russell Biomass Power Plant		EOEA #: 13635	
Street: Station Road			
Municipality: Russell (plant); Russell, Montgomery and Westfield (transmission line)		Watershed: Westfield River	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: 18 0677641 E; 46 72945 N		Latitude: 42° 11' 20" N Longitude: 72° 50' 55" W	
Status of project construction: 0% complete			
Proponent: Russell Biomass LLC			
Street: 101 Hampton Road			
Municipality: Pomfret Center		State: CT	Zip Code: 06259
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this NPC May Be Obtained: Rebecca Sherer, P.E.			
Firm/Agency: Tighe & Bond, Inc.		Street: 53 Southampton Road	
Municipality: Westfield		State: MA	Zip Code: 01085
Phone: (413) 562-1600	Fax: (413) 562-5317	E-mail: info@tighebond.com	

In 25 words or less, what is the project change? **The NPC is being filed in accordance with the Secretary's October 31, 2005 Certificate to confirm the proposed fuel source is "wood fuel" as defined by 310 CMR 7.00.**

See full project change description beginning on page 3.

Date of ENF filing or publication in the Environmental Monitor: **September 24, 2005**
 (publication in Environmental Monitor)

Was an EIR required? Yes No; if yes,
 was a Draft EIR filed? Yes (Date: June 2007 - Concurrent with NPC) No
 was a Final EIR filed? Yes (Date:) No
 was a Single EIR filed? Yes (Date:) No

Have other NPCs been filed? Yes (Date(s):) No

If this is a NPC solely for lapse of time (see 301 CMR 11.10(2)) proceed directly to "ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES" on page 4.

PERMITS / FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / LAND TRANSFER

List or describe all new or modified state permits, financial assistance, or land transfers not previously reviewed:

Are you requesting a finding that this project change is insignificant? (see 301 CMR 11.10(6))
 Yes No; if yes, attach justification.

Are you requesting that a Scope in a previously issued Certificate be rescinded?
 Yes No; if yes, attach the Certificate

Are you requesting a change to a Scope in a previously issued Certificate? Yes No; if yes, attach Certificate and describe the change you are requesting:

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Previously reviewed	Net Change	Currently Proposed
LAND			
Total site acreage	70 (facility) 63 (transmission line)	-50 acres ¹ (facility) 1 acres (transmission line) 2 to 8 acres (switching station)	20 (facility) 64 (transmission line) 2 to 8 acres (switching station)
Acres of land altered	18.1 acres (facility)	NA	18.1 acres (facility)
	63 acres (transmission)	NA	63 acres (transmission)
Acres of impervious area	7.7 acres (facility)	2.3 acres (facility) 1,000 sf (switching station)	10 acres (facility) 1,000 sf (switching station)
Square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands alteration	7,000 sf (temp)	82,800 sf (construction ²) 6,200 sf (permanent)	89,800 sf (construction ²) 6,200 sf (permanent)

Square feet of other wetland alteration	0	Riverfront 106,800 sf (construction ²) 700 sf (permanent) Isolated Vegetated Wetland 1,000 sf (permanent) 10,800 sf (construction ²) Bank 200 lf (construction ²)	Riverfront 106,800 sf (construction ^{2*}) 700 sf (permanent) Isolated Vegetated Wetland 1,000 sf (permanent) 10,800 sf (construction ²) Bank 200 lf (construction ²)
Acres of non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways	0	NA	0
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	62,930 sf	NA	62,930 sf
Number of housing units	0	NA	0
Maximum height (in feet)	135 (building) 300 (stack)	NA	135 (building) 300 (stack)
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	212	NA	212
Parking spaces	22	NA	22
WATER/WASTEWATER			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	886,000	NA	886,000
GPD water withdrawal	662,000 (average) 885,000 (maximum)	NA	662,000 (average) 885,000 (maximum)
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	500 (sanitary) 101,000 (cooling/average) 133,000 (cooling/maximum)	2,380 (sanitary)	2,880 (sanitary) 101,000 (cooling/average) 133,000 (cooling/maximum)
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0

¹ Change in property size reflects property subdivision and does not reflect a significant change in the proposed development.

² Construction impacts are defined as those impacts required to construct the transmission corridor, but which do not alter the hydrology, soils or majority of vegetation within the wetland system. This work generally consists of selective clearing of overstory vegetation and installation of swamp mats to cross resource areas. See Section 8 of the DEIR for more details.

Does the project change involve any new or modified:

1. conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose

not in accordance with Article 97? Yes No (The project includes a proposed land swap of an existing utility easement at the request of Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. See Section 7 of the DEIR for more details.)

2. release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction? Yes No

3. Impacts on Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities? Yes No (NHESP mapping revised in October 2006, see Section 7 of the DEIR for more details)

4. impact on any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes No; if yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources? Yes No

5. impact upon an Area of Critical Environmental Concern? Yes No
If you answered 'Yes' to any of these 5 questions, explain below:

PROJECT CHANGE DESCRIPTION (attach additional pages as necessary). The project change description should include:

- (a) a brief description of the project as most recently reviewed
- (b) a description of material changes to the project as previously reviewed,
- (c) the significance of the proposed changes, with specific reference to the factors listed 301 CMR 11.10(6), and
- (d) measures that the project is taking to avoid damage to the environment or to minimize and mitigate unavoidable environmental impacts. If the change will involve modification of any previously issued Section 61 Finding, include a proposed modification of the Section 61 Finding (or it will be required in a Supplemental EIR).

The proposed Russell Biomass Power Plant project is described in detail in Section 3 – Project Summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). Specific changes since the Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) are also specified in Section 3 of the DEIR. The changes that have occurred have resulted from the typical progression of project design, including communication and coordination with regulators. While changes since the EENF are identified in Section 3, they are further described and analyzed in their respective sections of the DEIR.

This Notice of Project Change (NPC) is being submitted as part of the DEIR in order to address the scope of the Secretary's October 31, 2005 Certificate on EENF, which specifically requires a NPC if the proposed fuel source for the power plant deviates from the fuel source specified in the Special Permit issued by the Russell Planning Board and the Russell Zoning Board of Appeals. MEPA staff confirmed that concurrent submittal of the DEIR and NPC is appropriate to address the Secretary's scope.

The Russell Special Permit identified the power plant fuel source as "virgin wood," which is further defined as "pre-consumer wood taken directly from its point of growth including wood resulting from logging, tree thinning, lot clearing, brush removal, bark, wood chips and shavings as fuels. Specifically excluded is all post-consumer wood and wood products including, but not limited to, painted wood, pressure treated wood, wood pallets, wood pulp or recycled paper, Construction and Demolition, Clean Recycled Waste and

Paper Cubes.”

In its regulatory filings to state agencies, Russell Biomass has been consistent in its definition of its intended fuel source. Section 11.2.1 of the EENF submitted to MEPA on September 14, 2005, states that the “Primary fuel is clean ‘wood fuel’ in chip form as defined by DEP in 310 CMR 7.00.” Consistent with the EENF, the Major Comprehensive Plan Approval Application (CPA) submitted to MADEP on September 30, 2005 states that the “primary fuel is ‘wood fuel’ in chip form as defined by DEP in 310 CMR 7.00.” Under 310 CMR 7.00, “wood fuel” is defined as “all wood intended to be used as a fuel included but not limited to trees, cord wood, logs, lumber, saw dust, and wood from: manufacturing processes (but offs, shavings, turnings, sander dust, etc.), wood pellets, slabs, bark, chips, waste pallets, boxes, etc. This definition does not include materials which are chemically treated with any preservative, paint, or oil.” The Project Proponents intend to use the following primary fuel sources: wood chips, wood by-product, wood stove pellets, sawmill bark and sawdust, ground stumps, ground pallets, and clean municipal recycling facility wood (brush, logs, and stumps). The facility will not use Construction and Demolition (C&D) materials or wood from the C&D stream. The fuel source is described in more detail in Section 12 of the DEIR.

With this NPC and the documentation provided in this DEIR, the project proponent intends to clarify that the fuel source is “wood fuel” as defined by 310 CMR 7.00, and to further clarify that the “wood fuel” definition of the fuel source has been used to quantify proposed impacts, including air emissions (see Section 13 of the DEIR for additional details), and that mitigation measures have been incorporated into the plant design to address potential impacts from the use of “wood fuel.” The review of the CPA by MADEP has proceeded using “wood fuel” as the defined fuel source. As state review of the project is currently underway using the “wood fuel” definition and the project analysis has consistently used this definition, we request MEPA to consider the clarification of the fuel source as an insignificant change to the proposed project.

ATTACHMENTS & SIGNATURES

Attachments:

1. Secretary's most recent Certificate on this project (**See Section 1 of the DEIR**)
2. Plan showing most recent previously-reviewed proposed build condition (**See Site Plans in Appendix A of the DEIR**)
3. Plan showing currently proposed build condition (**See Site Plans in Appendix A of the DEIR**)
4. Original U.S.G.S. map or good quality color copy (8-1/2 x 11 inches or larger) indicating the project location and boundaries (**See Figure 2-1 in the DEIR**)
5. List of all agencies and persons to whom the proponent circulated the NPC, in accordance with 301 CMR 11.10(7) (**See Circulation List in Appendix M in the DEIR**)

Signatures:

6/29/07

William B. Hull

Date Signature of Responsible Officer
or Proponent

William B. Hull

Name (print or type)

Russell Biomass LLC

Firm/Agency

101 Hampton Road

Street

Pomfret Center, CT 06259

Municipality/State/Zip

(860) 974-0127

Phone

6/29/07 Rebecca L. Sherer

Date Signature of person preparing
NPC (if different from above)

Rebecca L. Sherer

Name (print or type)

Tighe & Bond, Inc

Firm/Agency

53 Southampton Road

Street

Westfield, MA 01085

Municipality/State/Zip

(413) 572-3208

Phone