



Please attend the public hearing to determine if Seneca Biomass will be granted a significant increase in their air pollutant emissions in Eugene.

When: Wednesday, October 16, 2013

* Information session begins at **6:30** p.m.

* Hearing begins **after** the information session.

Where: Harris Hall,
Lane County Public Services Building
125 East 8th Street
Eugene, OR 97401

Background

Seneca Biomass is located at 90201 Highway 99 North, Eugene, OR 97402. The facility burns woody feedstock, which releases particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, greenhouse gases (CO₂), and hazardous air pollutants to the air.

The Issue

Seneca Biomass is requesting significant changes to their Standard Air Contaminant Discharge Permit. Seneca is requesting a significant increase in their air pollution of very fine particulate matter. They want to increase the amount they can release into the airshed from 14 to 17 tons each year. Why?

1. Their pollution control equipment is not delivering the level of pollution prevention that they promised the public; so instead staying within the limits of their original permit, Seneca wants “wiggle room” so that they can simply pollute more and not be “out of compliance.”
2. The Seneca facility has consistently failed to meet their permitted pollution level for particulate matter.
3. The original air pollution permit allowed them to emit 14 tons of particulate matter at the 10 micron size. Now they are admitting that they want to pollute 17 tons of particulate matter at the tiny 2.5 micron size.
4. They want to have a significant increase in their hydrogen chloride emissions.

What is the Risk for the People of Eugene?

Exposure to more air pollution means more direct health challenges for residents in the Bethel, River Road, Santa Clara neighborhoods, as well as a worsening of the entire Eugene airshed. Particulate matter at the 2.5 micron size gets into the deepest part of our lungs, and carries other toxic materials into the body and directly into the blood stream. Exposure to such particles can affect both your lungs and your heart.

According to the US EPA, numerous scientific studies have linked particle pollution exposure to a variety of problems, including:

- premature death in people with heart or lung disease,
- nonfatal heart attacks,
- irregular heartbeat,
- aggravated asthma,
- decreased lung function and stunted lungs in children, and
- increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing or difficulty breathing.

The problem is dangerous for our community because...

1. Eugene already has problems with too much particulate matter in our air, and the siltation gets worse during the winter months when we have air inversions and long periods of stagnant air. We will have more cases of bronchitis, coughs and irritation of the eyes, nose and throat.
2. People with heart or lung diseases, children and older adults are the most likely to be affected by particle pollution exposure.
3. Children in the neighborhoods closest to Seneca biomass plant (families in the Bethel neighborhood) have excessively high asthma rates compared to other school children in Eugene. The kind of toxic air pollutants emitted by Seneca are exactly the ones known to increase asthma rates in children. Children are the most vulnerable because their lungs are still underdeveloped. ([See the Beyond Toxics report on children's health in West Eugene](#))

While Seneca wants to bend the air pollution rules for their own profit, families in Eugene are faced with increased medical costs to care for their children during asthma attacks and respiratory distress.

LRAPA has the authority to deny the requested increase in pollution! Tell LRAPA to say "No." to Seneca. LRAPA's job is to protect the air and public health – demand that they stand by their mission.

**PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND EUGENE'S AIR!
SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO LRAPA...**

Send written comments by mail, fax or e-mail to:

Colleen Wagstaff, Permit Coordinator
1010 Main Street
Springfield, OR 97477
Fax: 541-726-1205
E-mail: [Colleen Wagstaff](mailto:Colleen.Wagstaff@lrapa.org)

Can't be there in person? Send your written comments. They are due by 5pm, **Friday, November 22, 2013.**