

# Biomass Energy Project

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## Project update

We are pleased to announce that the biomass project for the Domtar paper mill site in Rothschild is moving forward. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) approved the project application, and both Domtar and We Energies have agreed to the conditions outlined by the PSCW.

The 50-megawatt biomass-fueled cogeneration plant was first announced in September 2009. The application to build the facility on the site of the Domtar-Rothschild mill was filed with the PSCW in March 2010. Over the past year, all necessary local and state approvals have been obtained.

## Site preparation to begin immediately

Site preparation and construction of the new biomass facility will begin immediately. Construction of the new facility, which will be built on the south end of the Domtar property, will take approximately 30 months to complete. We will keep you informed of construction project milestones. Below is information on what you can expect to see as the construction activity moves forward:

- **Mobilization:** Beginning the week of June 20, 2011, the site will be made ready for project staff and construction crews. Office trailers will be brought to the site, and facilities such as telephone lines and water will be connected to the trailers. Drilling and digging equipment, such as bulldozers, backhoes and a well-drilling rig needed for the first stages of excavation, also may be brought to the site during this first week.
- **Hours of operation:** Typically, construction crews will work Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. On some occasions crews may be on the site on weekends.
- **Well drilling:** An existing water well on the project site will be relocated. The new well will be drilled on the east side of the project site adjacent to the Hewitt Street / South Line Road intersection on mill property. Drilling of the new well is scheduled to begin the week of June 27.
- **Storm-water retention pond excavation:** Per Department of Natural Resources requirements, a storm-water retention pond will be installed on the southeast corner of the project site. The pond will filter sediment from storm water running over the construction site. A berm, or soil barrier, will be created along the east perimeter of the pond to prevent storm water from flowing off the site. A new chain-link fence will be installed along this portion of the property's perimeter to meet local zoning ordinances. The pond excavation process may begin the week of June 27.
- **General site excavation and trenching:** Before anything can be built on the site, the ground will be graded and leveled. This process involves removing some concrete foundations of former Domtar structures. The concrete will be broken into pieces before it is hauled away. Trenches will be dug to prepare for installation of underground utilities such as storm water, sewer and

sanitary piping, fire protection lines and underground electrical lines. General excavation and trenching may begin the week of June 27.

- **Traffic:** The Domtar entrance at Business 51 and Weston Avenue is the primary entry/exit point for construction traffic. Through the first several months, approximately 40 to 50 construction crew members will arrive at the site daily. In addition to equipment arriving on site, covered dump trucks will be hauling excavated soil from the property to the Marathon County Landfill each day. We have asked all crews to use extra caution when entering and exiting the project site, and ask that you also be aware and cautious of this additional traffic.

As we move forward with construction of this project, we will continue to keep you informed of what is happening. If you have questions at any time during this process or you would like additional information about the biomass energy project:

Check out our website: [www.we-energies.com/biomass](http://www.we-energies.com/biomass)

E-mail us: [biomass@we-energies.com](mailto:biomass@we-energies.com)

Call us: 877-380-0522

We're here to answer your questions.