

Seneca's Proposed Power Plant – Is it Green? You Can Make a Difference.

Seneca is proposing to build a wood-fired power plant at their West Eugene headquarters. It's being promoted as a green and renewable energy, because they intend to use mill waste (wood debris) as fuel. You have a chance to make a difference. Contact LRAPA and urge them to protect our health and the environment.

Is it Green?

- **The plant will emit over 500 tons of pollutants into West Eugene's air every year.**
- Many of the pollutants are known to cause cancer, heart disease, and respiratory illness.
- The plant would be Eugene's largest source of styrene (a carcinogen), acetaldehyde (a carcinogen), hydrogen chloride (causes respiratory illnesses), & naphthalene (a carcinogen).
- The power plant would be Eugene's 3rd largest source of formaldehyde (a carcinogen).
- The power plant will be the 4th largest emitter of toluene (a carcinogen).
- The plant requires 32 tons of wood/hour.

LRAPA's Role

LRAPA is the local government agency responsible for air quality. Seneca must obtain a permit from LRAPA to operate. LRAPA can dictate requirements in the permit, such as less air pollutants.

Global Warming

- **The plant will emit over 212,000 tons of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) each year – a known contributor to global warming.**
- The plant will emit many other direct and indirect greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, including nitrous oxide (N₂O), methane (CH₄), non-methane-volatile compounds (NVOC), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and carbon monoxide (CO).
- **Due to its long atmospheric lifetime (approximately 120 years) and heat trapping effects —N₂O is about 310 times more powerful than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.**
- In 2010, Seneca would be required to report their greenhouse gas emissions in the Air Pollution Permit.
- The plant is being promoted as carbon neutral, but there are reasons to question that claim.
- Logged trees do not absorb carbon, and young trees do not absorb the same amount of carbon as older trees. Burned trees do not absorb carbon – they release it.
- Fossil fuels (known contributors to global warming) are used in the forestry practice –when forests are sprayed with pesticides and fertilizers, when trees are cut, and when trees and woody debris are transported.

Air Pollution: Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x)

- **The plant will emit 186 tons of NO_x per year.**
- According to the EPA, NO_x causes respiratory problems and aggravates heart disease. It can damage lung tissue, and cause premature death.
- The power plant would be the 4th largest emitter of NO_x in Lane County and the 2nd largest in Eugene.
- Seneca currently proposes to reduce NO_x emissions by 45% with Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR).
- They could reduce NO_x emissions and its contribution to CO₂ and ground-level ozone by 70% with Regenerative Selective Catalytic Reduction (RSCR).



Air Pollution: Carbon Monoxide (CO)

- **The plant will emit 200 tons/year of CO.**
- According to the EPA, CO can trigger serious respiratory problems and even at low levels is a serious threat to people with heart problems.
- The power plant would be the 7th largest emitter of CO in Lane County and the 2nd largest in Eugene.
- CO is eventually transformed to CO₂ and therefore contributes to global warming.
- Seneca could reduce CO emissions by 50% with Regenerative Selective Catalytic Reduction (RSCR).

Air Pollution Fines and Limits

- **Air pollution in West Eugene should be monitored regularly and accurately, so we KNOW what's being put into our air.**
- Seneca's permit should include strict language for pollutant reporting and stack monitoring.
- Fines should be explicitly stated in LRAPA's air discharge permit and strictly imposed.

West Eugene and Air Pollution

- Seneca should be required to report their air and water emissions to the Eugene Toxics Reporting Program.
- Almost all of Eugene's industrial air pollutant sources are located in West Eugene.
- Residents of West Eugene are also exposed to air pollution from rail yard operations and heavy traffic.
- The Seneca plant will add to that burden.
- LRAPA, EWEB, Seneca and other industries with a high amount of air pollutants could fund an ambient air toxics monitor to accurately measure the general level of pollutants in West Eugene's air.

What You Can Do

LRAPA is accepting public input on this issue. Contact them and tell them you're concerned about the level of air pollutants. Urge them to do whatever it is in their power to:

1. Require Seneca to use the most stringent Regenerative Selective Catalytic Reduction to reduce NO_x and CO emissions.
2. Use continuous "stack" monitoring for as many pollutants as possible.
3. Include strict language for pollution reporting to the Eugene Toxics Right to Know program and for fines when Seneca exceeds limits.
4. Work with the Lane County Government, Seneca, and other West Eugene industries to fund an ambient air toxics monitor in West Eugene.

Environmental Justice

Neighborhoods in West Eugene are unfairly burdened with harmful air pollution. The Seneca plant will add 500 more tons to existing toxic pollution. US Census data shows these neighborhoods have higher concentrations of people who are low-income, minority or disabled. LRAPA should protect residents and the public well-being by reducing air pollution.

Attend LRAPA's Public Hearing

Thursday, July 30th, 5:30 PM

Harris Hall

125 East 8th Street

Eugene, OR 97401

Written comments received through August 14.

Written communications can be sent to:

LRAPA Permit Coordinator

1010 Main St

Springfield, OR 97477

Go to www.oregontoxics.org/AQ/Seneca/seneca.html for more information .