

**WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD  
WEST WINDSOR DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

Minutes  
February 2, 2009

Present: Phil Arvidson, Tom Kenyon, Glenn Seward, Hal Pyke, Mike Spackman, Pete Ladd, John McNamara

Selectboard Chair Phil Arvidson, Fire Chief Mike Spackman and several members of the Development Review Board met with Jaffrey, NH Economic Development Director Jo Anne Carr in Jaffrey at 1:30 PM to discuss the pros and cons of having a wood pellet plant in town. Jo Anne reported that the Town is very happy with the plant. At 3:00 PM, the group went to New England Wood Pellet, Inc. (NEWP) for a tour of the plant, where Selectboard member Tom Kenyon joined them. The plant tour was given by Chuck Niebling, the General Manager for Procurement and Sales. Glenn Seward and Hal Pyke noted the following:

Jaffrey has a Tax Increment District, which is zoned industrial. The 75-acre parcel owned by NEWP is in current use. There are scattered residences in the area of the plant, but none are very close. Fire Safety: The plant, which has no sprinkler system due to limited on-site cistern water, has had problems with dust fires. Plant managers plan to draw water from the river in the future. The fire department consists of a full time paid chief and paid call firefighters. The plant had an OSHA inspection due to dust issues. They were fined \$135,000 and are now upgrading their delivery area to meet requirements. The plant is equipped with automatic fire cut-off controls. Truck traffic: Trucks use Route 202 through the middle of town for access to the plant. The state of New Hampshire does traffic counts for the plant, but there are no restrictions on truck traffic. Runoff: The plant has some drainage issues due to runoff collecting in, and plugging, catch basins and swales. Noise: There are no noise issues. The noise level is estimated at approximately 50-55 db outside. Hours: The plant operates 24/7. Air pollution: There are no air pollution issues; emissions meet state requirements. Municipal Services: The plant places no burden on local services. Overall: There are no ongoing issues or concerns; the overall impact of the plant is very positive. Jaffrey has a high tax rate so they are looking to attract new businesses. The plant was built in 1999 and is now valued at about \$2 million. Raw material: Raw material is stored outside and includes round, chipped, and kiln dried wood, furniture, and old shipping pallets. It is normally 34-40% wet, but now it is over 40% wet. Pellets are made in different grades, e.g. premium hard wood, soft wood, and mixed. The blending ratio of hardwood and chips is very important to ensure a quality product. Whole logs are only used when other sources are scarce. Debarking and chipping are done outside by an independent contractor. The bark is sold for mulch and not used in the manufacturing process. Raw material is trucked in (25-30 tractor-trailers per day) and stored outside. There is very little inventory on hand due to demand. Ten to fifteen tractor-trailers per day take pellets out, basically as fast as it is produced. Key issues: The furnace output is mixed with outside air to lower the temperature for the dryer. The state of NH is concerned about CO<sup>2</sup> and NO<sup>2</sup> emissions. There are rigid state inspections every 5 years with less stringent inspections every year. Waste: The plant does not generate any waste. Output: The plant produces about 75,000 tons/year, but they expect to increase to 90,000 tons/year. The plant produces its own electricity and heats with a co-generation system. Hot gases push a turbine for electric power. This technology is new and is the first of its kind. The generator has a 1.5 mega watt capacity. Excess electricity will be routed into the grid.

Challenges: Many plants have tried to produce wood pellets in NH, but most have failed because of the complexity of the business and the difficulty in securing a consistent supply of raw material. Although there are no engineering firms or consultants who specialize in wood pellet production, proper plant construction and setup are critical to its success. Getting proper engineering support before attempting to build is critical. Although some plant components are widely used in other types of manufacturing and can be purchased “off the shelf,” others had to be fabricated in house.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison