

FACT SHEET

ATLANTIC POWER WILLIAMS LAKE RENEWAL PROJECT

MARCH 2017 UPDATE

WHAT IS THE WILLIAMS LAKE POWER PLANT RENEWAL PROJECT?

The Williams Lake Power Plant (WLPP) is proposing to supplement the existing fibre it uses to generate electricity with additional shredded rail ties that would be blended with residual fibre from wood processing plants in the area.

WHY?

The company's contract to supply electricity to BC Hydro expires in 2018. WLPP needs to ensure it has a stable and secure supply of fibre to be able to extend the contract, or the plant will likely close.

WHY SHREDDED RAIL TIES?

The impacts of the mountain pine beetle infestation, the reduction in the timber harvest, and the increasing competition for fibre all reduce the availability of sawmill and forest residues for use by WLPP.

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

- WLPP expects that its future fuel supply will be a three-legged stool made up of the following:
- Traditional fibre from area mills
- Roadside logging debris, and
- Alternative fuels such as used rail ties and clean wood from construction and demolition debris.

WHAT'S THE PROJECT STATUS?

- In 2016, The Ministry of Environment (MOE) conducted a comprehensive and detailed review of the project and issued an amended permit to allow WLPP to burn up to a maximum of 50% rail ties.
- The revised permit includes new requirements for air emissions, waste water, storm water, fuel handling, ash handling, and ash disposal. These MOE permit limits are designed to be protective of human health and the environment. The particulate limit, of special concern in the Williams Lake airshed, has been decreased by 60 % from the previous permit limit.

- The permitting process included significant public input over an 18 month period beginning in the spring of 2015.
- The Environmental Appeal Board is now reviewing public appeals of the permit.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

- Without a new contract with BC Hydro, the power plant will likely close.
- Williams Lake will lose its largest taxpayer representing 18 per cent of the tax base.
- 32 quality jobs at the plant and a local outlet for wood waste from area mills.
- Over \$8 million spent each year in the local economy on goods and services.
- Approximately \$3 million spent each year on local trucking and the associated 20 driver jobs.



FOR THE RECORD

Many untruths have been circulated about the Williams Lake Power Plant Renewal Project. In the interests of fairness and transparency, we would like to clarify for the community some of the misinformation about the project:

- We do not profit from low-cost fuel. Any fuel cost savings are passed through to BC Hydro customers, including those residing in Williams Lake.
- We are not currently burning rail ties.
- Rail ties are not Hazardous Waste. If they were, we would be prohibited from burning them.
- Ash from the power plant, including when burning rail ties, is not Hazardous Waste.
- Our landfill is stable. It is in full compliance with its landfill permit, issued by the Ministry of the Environment (MoE). Our landfill is inspected annually by a qualified third-party geotech engineer. Comparisons to Mt. Polley are not supported by any facts.
- We are not intending to off-load rail ties at the CN yard near Scout Island. We are working on alternative off-loading sites closer to the plant.
- Emission restrictions imposed by MoE and measured continuously, will limit our use of rail ties to a maximum of 50 per cent of the fuel mix at any given point in time.
- Our use of rail ties is expected to never exceed 100,000 metric tonnes annually (one-third of what has been claimed) and will likely be less than that amount (each tonne represents approximately 14-15 ties).
- The WLPP Renewal Project has formal support from the Williams Lake City Council, the Cariboo Regional District, the Williams Lake Indian Band and the Williams Lake Chamber of Commerce.



If you have any questions or would like additional information, please email: wlpinfo@atlanticpower.com

Additional information on the project can be found at:

ATLANTICPOWER.COM/WILLIAMS-LAKE