



NEWS RELEASE

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Dairyland Suspends Plans for Disposal Site

Testing and permitting activities and development plans halted at all three potential sites in Vernon County

LA CROSSE, WI— Dairyland Power Cooperative announced today that it is pleased to be indefinitely suspending the permitting process for a proposed off-site coal combustion byproducts disposal facility in Vernon County. All testing and permitting activities and future development plans will be halted at all three potential sites: the two sites in the town of Harmony and the site adjacent to the Vernon County landfill.

In 2003, Dairyland began installing additional air emission controls at its Genoa Station #3 power plant. The controls include the installation of a “scrubber,” now under construction, that will further improve air quality by reducing sulfur dioxide emissions. The scrubber will generate significant amounts of a new type of coal combustion byproduct that has fewer opportunities for recycling. Therefore, a little more than a year ago, Dairyland announced plans to begin the lengthy siting process for a potential facility in Vernon County for safe disposal of the material that could not be recycled.

“At that time, we explained that we needed to start the siting process for a disposal facility because there is a multiyear permitting process required by state and federal agencies. We also told the public that we would continue to try to find alternatives to a disposal facility, including recycling. Keeping to our word, we have continued our assessment of fuel supply, recycling, environmental impacts and operational requirements,” said Chuck Sans Crainte, Vice President, Generation. “As a result, we have developed an alternative plan that allows us to suspend the permitting process for a disposal facility in Vernon County. The plan will significantly reduce the amount of scrubber byproduct by using a different coal blend at our Genoa facility.” said Sans Crainte.

Dairyland noted that the coal blend change, combined with advancements in recycling opportunities, allowed the cooperative to change direction.

“We are pleased to make this announcement and appreciate the support and patience of the landowners who have worked with us throughout this process. We also thank cooperative and community members who listened, offered constructive ideas and have trusted in Dairyland’s long history of working with members,” said Sans Crainte.

Note: In light of this decision, Dairyland is **canceling the Open House** which was scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 12, at the VFW in Viroqua.

With headquarters in La Crosse, Wis., Dairyland provides wholesale electricity to 25 member distribution cooperatives and 17 municipal utilities. Dairyland’s service area encompasses 62 counties in four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois). Dairyland’s generation resources include coal, natural gas, hydro, wind, landfill gas and animal waste. For more information, please visit www.dairynet.com.

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