

Rodriguez, Melanie

From: Vaughan Frost, Rita <rfrost@nrdc.org>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2025 12:25 PM
To: Rodriguez, Melanie
Cc: Mary Elizabeth; gloria@littlemanila.org; matt@vip209.org; Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla; Ector Olivares; Julie Dunning; swolf@biologicaldiversity.org; Hammel, Debbie
Subject: 2.18.2025 Non-agenda comments
Attachments: Drax subsidies cut in two.pdf; Enviva Amory closing.pdf

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Hello Melanie & Port of Stockton commissioners,

I am again writing to ask the Port of Stockton commissioners to agendize Golden State Natural Resources' wood pellet project and invite scientists to share their findings with the Port of Stockton commissioners. Secondly, we request a joint meeting with the Port staff and local partners to discuss comments the Port of Stockton submitted on the project.

Two significant developments in the wood pellet industry have transpired since your last meeting on January 21, 2025:

1. On February 10, 2025, the UK government cut subsidies for biomass in half. This could majorly restrict wood pellet developments in the U.S. as nearly 75% of U.S. wood pellet production is exported to the U.K. (see attached)
2. On February 7, 2025, the world's largest pellet producer closed their flagship wood pellet facility in Amory, MS. Global demand shifts are already impacting stateside production and mills are closing. (see attached)

Given these developments, the Port of Stockton Commissioners must seriously consider if any investment in a wood pellet export and storage terminal is worth the financial and public safety risks.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Rita Vaughan Frost

Rita Vaughan Frost

*Forest Advocate
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**NATURAL RESOURCES
DEFENSE COUNCIL**

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Subsidies halved for controversial Drax power station

7 days ago

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BBC environment correspondent



The Drax power station near Selby in north Yorkshire burns imported wood pellets

The government has agreed a new funding arrangement with the controversial wood-burning Drax power station that it says will cut subsidies in half.

The power station, a converted coal plant in north Yorkshire, generates about 5% of the UK's electricity and has received billions of pounds from the government and bill-payers because wood pellets are classed as a source of renewable energy.

Though there are plans to eventually capture the carbon emitted from Drax, its emissions from burning the pellets are currently unabated.

Critics of the power station have called it one of the UK's leading emitters of the climate warming gas CO₂, but Drax disputes that description.

It argues that burning wood is carbon neutral because when trees are cut down for fuel, new trees can be planted that effectively re-absorb the carbon dioxide released.

The new agreement will run from 2027 to 2031 and will see the power station only used as a back-up to cheaper renewable sources of power.

The government says that will mean that when there's lots of wind and solar, Drax won't run at all.

It says the company currently receives nearly a billion pounds a year in subsidies and predicts that figure will more than halve to £470m under the new deal.

Michael Shanks, the Minister of Energy, said the previous subsidy arrangement had allowed Drax to make "unacceptably large profits" and that the new deal would be a "step change in value for money and sustainability".

In a statement, Drax said the the new mechanism would represent a "net saving" for consumers and quoted analysis which suggested it would cut electricity system costs by between £1.6bn and £3.1bn over four years.

A "clawback mechanism" in the new arrangement is designed to stop the company making excessive profits if electricity prices rise steeply.

"Under this proposed agreement, Drax can step in to increase generation when there is not enough electricity, helping to avoid the need to burn more gas or import power from Europe, and when there is too much electricity on the UK grid, Drax can turn down and help to balance the system," said Will Gardiner Drax's chief executive.

Campaign group Greenpeace called the deal "a dirty compromise with past failures" but said that it should hopefully limit the damage by restricting Drax's operations.

"The government is still far too trusting of big polluters asking for big subsidies to decarbonise," Dr Doug Parr, Greenpeace's policy director, said. "We have cheap, clean power sources available, and we shouldn't be left to gamble on schemes like this anymore."

The new agreement also states that 100% of the wood pellets Drax burns must be "sustainably sourced" and that "material sourced from primary and old growth forests" will not be able to receive support payments.

All the pellets Drax burns are imported, with most of them coming from the USA and Canada.

BBC Panorama and BBC News has previously reported that Drax held logging licences in British Columbia, Canada, and used wood, including whole trees, from primary and old-growth forests for its pellets.

In response to the BBC's reporting, Drax admitted it had taken wood from old-growth forests. But it told Panorama that 77% of the material for its Canadian wood pellets came from sawdust and sawmill residues, with the rest coming from forestry residues and low-grade logs.

It says the company does not own forests or sawmills, no longer bids for logging licences and has stopped sourcing wood from some sites, where the British Columbia government has asked companies to pause further logging.

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https://www.wtva.com/news/wood-pellet-plant-in-amory-closing/article_f79996ca-e310-11ef-bf29-33858eaa22b4.html

Wood pellet plant in Amory closing

By: Craig Ford
Feb 4, 2025



Enviva wood pellet plant in Amory is closing Friday

By: Veronica Mejia

Enviva announced the closure nearly two months after emerging from bankruptcy.

AMORY, Miss. (WTVA) — The Enviva wood pellet plant in Amory is closing for good on Friday nearly two months after the company emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Mayor Corey Glenn said the company informed him of the decision Tuesday morning.

He added the plant employs between 25 to 30 workers.

"Due to market dynamics and the Amory facility's infrastructure and operations along with the relationship of its size and scale relative to the rest of our portfolio, it has been decided resources are better invested in other areas moving forward," according to a statement from Enviva.

The company acquired the Amory plant in 2010, the first one for the company to operate in the United States.

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Tags

Bankruptcy

Enviva

Mayor Corey Glenn

Wood Pellet

Amory

Craig Ford

Anchor, Reporter & Assistant News Director

Craig is from Smithville, Mississippi. He is a graduate of Smithville High School and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Rodriguez, Melanie

From: Mary Elizabeth <mebeth@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 11:44 AM
To: Rodriguez, Melanie
Subject: Non-agenda comments 2.18.2025 Stockton Port Commission

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Port. Please exercise caution.

Greetings,

We have received copies of the comments submitted by Stockton Port staff to GSFA regarding some concerns that Port staff identified in the GSNR DEIR for the wood pellet export project as well as a letter requesting another public meeting. Please consider directing staff to give you all a presentation of the concerns that were identified and provide an opportunity for community advocates to do the same.

Thank you for your continued efforts to help reduce harmful algal blooms which along with the golden mussels that have been identified around the Port of Stockton represent serious water quality concerns for our community. Here is a link regarding the golden mussels and detection: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Species/Golden-Mussel>

Sincerely,

Mary Elizabeth, M.S., R.E.H.S.