

» Web Member-Login

SEARCH
 GO
 This site
 Google

- MARKETPLACE**
- JOBFINDER
 - CARFINDER
 - HOMEFINDER
 - FIND A MORTGAGE
 - GARAGE SALES
 - PERSONALS
 - NEWSPAPER ADS
 - YELLOW PAGES
 - PLACE AN AD**

Featured Jobs

OUR SERVICES

- Subscriber Services
- Order Home Delivery
- Missed Paper
- Deliver Our Newspaper
- Advertise
- Buy Our Photos
- Contact Us
- About The Tribune
- Jobs at The Tribune
- RSS Feeds
- Tribune Reader Network
- Tribune In Education
- Link to us
- Site Map



Search Yellow Pages:

Location:

Search

OUR PARTNERS



Comments (0) | **E-Mail** | **Print** | **Save** | **License**

Business Update

SRP to use biomass power

By Ed Taylor, Tribune

February 11, 2005

Salt River Project said Thursday it will buy electricity from the state's largest power plant fueled by biomass, which is planned near Snowflake.

The plant being developed by Snowflake White Mountain Power LLC will burn waste wood from sawmills and wood thinned from forests near the town — part of the state government's Healthy Forest Initiative intended to reduce damage from forest fires.

The 10-year contract calls for SRP to purchase 10 megawatts from the plant beginning at the time the project is completed, which is expected to be no later than January 2008.

The Snowflake power company officials said they will build a plant that can produce between 15 to 20 megawatts of power, with the remainder available for sale to other utilities.

"We are pleased to be part of a process that will benefit not only SRP's renewable energy supply, but also responds to the state's forest management challenges," said Richard Hayslip, manager of SRP's environmental, land and risk management departments.

Arizona Public Service is planning to build a second three-megawatt biomass plant near Snowflake, which the utility hopes to bring on line by the end of this year. APS also has started discussions to obtain some of the energy produced at the larger Snowflake White Mountain Power plant, said APS spokeswoman Maria Arellano.

One megawatt is enough power to serve about 250 homes.

Arizona utilities are being prodded into renewable energy production by the Arizona Corporation Commission, which has set a goal that 1 percent of the state's electricity be produced from nonhydro renewable sources by the end of this year. The commission also authorized the utilities to add a surcharge .08 cents per kilowatt hour to consumer bills each month to help cover the higher expense of renewable energy.

Although SRP is not subject to the commission's rules, the board of directors has set a goal for SRP to meet 2 percent of its retail energy requirements from sustainable sources by 2010, and the Snowflake plant will help meet that goal, the project said.

The cost of biomass energy is likely to decline in the future as new and more efficient turbines are developed, said Scott Higginson, executive vice president of Snowflake White Mountain Power. But the greatest cost is related to the transportation of the fuel to the plant, which is not likely to change very much, he said. For that reason, the fuel is pretty much limited to coming from within a 50-mile radius of the plant, he said.

"We strongly believe there is plenty of fuel available to drive this plant and increase the health of the forest," he said. "The forest will continue to regenerate itself, and thinning will be needed repeatedly."

He added that much of the fuel burned in the plant will be sawmill waste that has no other economic use.

Related Links

[Business](#)

CLICK HERE FOR MORE SPECIALS!

Saving You Money For Over 20 Years!



FURNITURE PLUS Serving the Valley Since 1993
www.myfurnitureplus.com
1415 E. University Drive • Mesa • 898-3124

ADVERTISERS...



LunchClub.net
Restaurant Coupon of the Week!

Find the latest news and reviews of music, movies,...

[Click for lunch coupons of the week](#)

[Click for grocery coupons](#)

[Bashas' weekly ads](#)