Biomass experiment delayed at Boardman coal facility

Plans to test burn biomass at the Boardman Coal Plant delayed by weather

By GEORGE PLAVEN Staff Writer

A major step toward determining whether the Boardman Coal Plant can run entirely on biomass will have to wait a little while longer.

Portland General Electric had planned to conduct a full-day test burn at the plant using nothing but woody debris by the end of December. However, as winter weather had Oregonians cranking up the heat, PGE needed all resources on deck to keep up with the surge in electricity demand.

Steve Corson, spokesman, said the biomass trial at Boardman will instead be held sometime during the first quarter of 2017.

"We were in the midst of the coldest weather we've had this month, and we needed that power generation at the coal plant," Corson said.

Workers at the plant did use a partial mix of coal and biomass for three days -Dec. 6, 8 and 12 — which Corson said provided further information about how the material behaves with the facility's pulverizers.

"It is similar to coal, but there are distinctions," Corson said.

PGE has until 2020 to decide what to do with the Boardman facility, the state's last remaining coalfired power plant. Rather than install costly emissions upgrades, the utility is researching whether the station can be converted to run on an alternative source of fuel. If not, the plant will be shut down completely.

Earlier this year, PGE

REPORTS:

and fees.

continued from Page A5

• Credits inc. vs. Liobaldo Villa Cam-

• Credits Inc. vs. Jeannitte K. and

• Credits Inc. vs. Raymond Douglas

• Credits Inc. vs. Deann Cravin: seeks

• Credits Inc. vs. Deana L. Dedera:

• Credits Inc. vs. Kristina Engel:

Credits Inc. vs. Beann and Scott

seeks \$3,688.62 plus interest, costs and

seeks \$6,199.05 plus interest, costs and

Randall Case: seeks \$1,096.20 plus in-

Sinclair: seeks \$2,780.77 plus interest,

\$708.49 plus interest, costs and fees.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC

A pile of biomass has arrived at the Boardman Coal Plant for a full-day test burn, now scheduled for the first quarter of 2017.

partnered with a newly incorporated business called Oregon Torrefaction, made up of the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Bonneville Environmental Foundation and Ochoco Lumber Company, based in Prineville. The corporation is providing 8,000 tons of torrefied biomass needed to run the Boardman plant for one day, at full capacity.

The process of torrefaction refers to roasting biomass, such as wood waste, at high temperatures in the absence of oxygen, resulting in a brittle, charcoal-like material that can be crushed inside the plant. The hope is that low-value timber, small-diameter trees and forest clutter can become a sustainable source of fuel for the plant, while simultaneously improving forest health and creating rural jobs.

Not everyone is as optimistic. The Sierra Club recently issued a report flagging several concerns with the project's impact on air quality and forest health.

Among its findings, the Sierra Club reports that PGE

N. Smith: seeks \$2,541.96 plus interest,

seeks \$9,979.27 plus interest, costs and

seeks \$2,991.16 plus interest, costs and

seeks \$10,000 plus interest, costs and

berg: seeks \$5,617.74 plus interest, costs

vs. Megan A. Escamilla: seeks \$1,310.48

vs. Jessica L. Reyes: seeks \$1,091.07 plus

Thomas Keyser: seeks \$1,992.94 plus

plus interest, costs and fees.

interest, costs and fees.

• Credits Inc. vs. Jeanette Willman:

Credits Inc. vs. Jose Luis Frias:

• Credits Inc. vs. Tiare Kay Morlan:

• Discover Bank vs. John A. Pad-

• Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC

Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC

• Citibank N.A. vs. Mischelle C.

would actually need 12,800 tons of dry wood daily at the Boardman plant, since torrefaction does burn off some of the material's total mass. Assuming the plant runs at peak capacity for five months, that adds up to 1.9 million dry tons of unprocessed wood annually.

Logging residue would provide just 6-8 percent of that feedstock, according to the report's estimates. As for additional thinning projects, the Sierra Club cautions against tailoring forest management to meet future energy needs.

management "Forest practices motivated to meet energy needs sets a dangerous precedent for our public forests, especially when continuous large volumes are needed in the supply chain as is the case with the Boardman proposal," the report reads.

Alexander Harris, conservation organizer with the Sierra Club in Portland, spearheaded the report. He said the organization is not pursuing a campaign against biomass, but is watching closely to see that climate and forest conse-

• Worlds Foremost Bank vs. Vern

• Swift Transportation Co. of Arizona

• Justin Lieuallen vs. Scott and Holly

Kenworthy: seeks \$2,310 plus interest,

Judgments

been rendered in Umatilla County

Burton: judgment for \$765.17 plus inter-

Inc. vs. Gregory and Melody A. Demas-

ter: judgment for \$955.48 plus interest,

est, costs and fees.

costs and fees.

The following judgments have

• Midland Funding LLC vs. Daniel

• Rocky Mountain Therapy Services

Hamblen: seeks \$2.842 plus interest.

interest, costs and fees.

plus interest, costs and fees.

quences are being closely monitored by PGE.

Corson reiterated the project is still in the research and development phase, and many questions still need to be answered before the proposal could even be considered feasible. He chided the Sierra Club report for making some faulty assumptions, such as sourcing of the biomass, which Corson said would come from multiple sources.

"There seems to be a decent possibility the answer to the questions could point to a sustainable, renewable, environmentally responsible solution for the plant that would benefit our customers and the local community," Corson said. "We're continuing our research to make sure we have the best information we can collect before we make any decisions."

A successful full-day test burn would mark the next milestone in the process, and could lead to additional multi-day trials in the future.

Contact George Plaven at 541-966-0825.

• Donald G. Hoke vs. Safeway Inc.:

• O'Hanlon Law Offices LLC vs.

Ray Klein Inc. vs. Carey Leanne

• Quick Collect Inc. vs. Eric Purcell:

• Quick Collect Inc. vs. Norma Men-

• Ray Klein Inc. vs. Mica Bartlett:

· Quick Collect Inc. vs. Danielle Ma-

Reuben: judgment for \$4,259.42 plus

judgment for \$926.04 plus interest,

doza and Sergio Mendoza Jr.: judg-

ment for \$608.52 plus interest, costs

judgment for \$397.68 plus interest,

rie and Darren K. Holden: judgment for

\$449.79 plus interest, costs and fees.

interest, costs and fees.

costs and fees.

and fees.

judgment for \$1,018.80 plus interest,

James Dale Standley III: judgment for

\$3,691,27 plus interest, costs and fees.

Teen injured after car hits skateboarder

A Hermiston teen was injured when he was struck by a car Friday night while riding his skateboard down North First Place between West Harper Road and West Elm Street.

Hermiston Police Chief Jason Edmiston said that according to witnesses, the 15-yearold boy, Costa Maldonado, was riding his skateboard in the middle of the roadway and was wearing dark clothing when he was hit by a vehicle, driven by 19 yearold Nicolas Magana of Hermiston. Maldonado, who had

been riding the skateboard, was taken to Good Shepherd Medical Center for treatment. Edmiston said the

cause of the crash is still under investigation. — Jayati Ramakrishnan

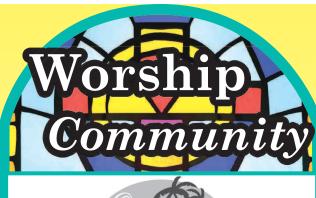
IN BRIEF

Eppenbach shares 'bits & pieces'

Longtime Irrigon resident Don Eppenbach will share stories and historical facts about the region during a weekend presentation.

The second in a three-part series, The Columbia River: Bits & Pieces, Stories & Facts is Saturday at 5 p.m. at the Irrigon branch of the Oregon Trail Library District, 490 N.E. Main St. A social hour with refreshments will follow the presentation.

For more information, call Eppenbach at 541-922-





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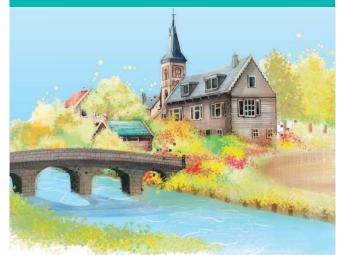
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