

Testimony for Public Hearing to LRAPA Regarding Seneca Co-Generation Plant Permit
7/30/09

Hello. My name is Carla Hervert. I am a registered nurse, and throughout my entire career, I have worked passionately to improve the quality of life for folks with heart and lung disease.

I have been asked to read the testimony from the American Lung Association. It was written by Dana Kaye, executive director, received on July 23, 2009.

"The American Lung Association has a growing concern with regard to the location of the Seneca facility and how it will negatively impact the residents of West Eugene."

"The Lung Association is particularly worried about the residents that currently suffer with asthma and other chronic pulmonary diseases. They are extremely vulnerable to small micro pollutants, the type of pollution that will increase with the Seneca Biomass plant. The American Lung Association's annual State of the Air Report consistently shows Lane County as having several bad air quality days earning the grade of a D."

"The Lane County Health Advisory Committee reports that Seneca identifies significant amounts of carcinogens and respiratory irritants such as toluene, styrene, benzene, chlorine, acetaldehyde and formaldehyde will be produced as well. These agents are not currently monitored nor are there plans to periodically monitor for them. Seneca's biomass cogeneration facility will be the county's fourth largest emitter of nitrogen oxides, which aggravate asthma and, in combination with sunlight, form ozone. This information coupled with the fact that Lane County has the highest asthma rate in Oregon (11%) is the primary reason for the Lung Association's involvement. We have also partnered with organizations in Eugene to eliminate field burning and clean up diesel exhaust as part of our mission to improve lung health for Oregonians."

My last comment is that I have learned from prior informational meetings held by EWEB, LRAPA, and Seneca, that the Seneca plant will supply electricity to 13,000 homes and provide 10 new jobs---to sacrifice the health of thousands---seems insane, and at the very least, unfair!

Thank you for allowing me to speak, and please consider the seriousness of this issue.