

KYTX-TV (CBS affiliate, Tyler/Longview/Lufkin/Nacogdoches)

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A different kind of power plant is coming to Woodville, south of Lufkin. The plant will convert excess wood materials into electricity that is carbon-neutral. The East Texas Electric Cooperative says the plant will improve the availability of power when major outages strike. The plant will bring about 250 jobs during construction then 25 people will be hired to operate the plant in Woodville.

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Daily Sentinel (Nacogdoches, TX)

## **ETEC in partnership to build biomass plant**

### **Wood-fueled plant to be built in Woodville**

By Keith Lansdale

August 9, 2009

East Texas Electric Cooperative (ETEC) announced July 27 that a contract has been finalized with North American Procurement Company (NAPCO) to develop a wood-fueled biomass plant in Woodville.

While the plant will be an addition to ETEC's already existing sources of energy, it is expected to diversify the way they already supply power, according to Ryan Thomas, chief financial officer for ETEC, which has offices in Nacogdoches.

"It will just go as one of our additional power resources," Thomas said. "We get a lot of power from natural gas, and natural gas can jump up and down significantly, so this will help with that. We also get a good deal of our power from coal plants, and if there is any carbon legislation, this will help blunt some of the impact from that."

The new form of energy is created from converting excess wood materials into renewable, carbon neutral power for ETEC, capable of producing 50-megawatts of power.

"A lot of what we are going to be using is going to be the excess from logging and things like that," Thomas said, " ... bark, tree limbs and dirty chips, basically just things that are being burned or are going to waste right now."

ETEC is made up of 10 distributing cooperatives: Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative, Cherokee County Electric Cooperative, Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative, Houston County Electric

Cooperative, Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative, Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative, Rusk County Electric Cooperative, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative and Wood County Electric Cooperative.

"This new plant is going to be for our existing members only," he said. "We will not be selling it elsewhere — it's the people we already supply power to."

Construction of the Woodville plant is currently slated to begin late 2010 and finish in late 2013 and is expected to create 250 jobs during construction and 20 to 25 permanent jobs after completion.

"And the wood we will be using will be from that area as well," he said, "which will also produce demand for another 60 jobs or so."

This plant is the same type and design that Nacogdoches Power LLC is planning to build in the Sacul area. The Sacul location is currently projected for a 100-megawatt wood-fired power plant in the Cushing ISD school district.

According to Thomas, the Woodville location will affect the future Sacul location very little, if any.

"The Nacogdoches Power folks will be far enough away from where we are in Woodville that we would not be competing for fuel," he said. "There will be a little bit of overlap, but not a lot. It's a good ways from northeast Nacogdoches County down to Woodville."

For more information on ETEC, visit [www.etc.coop](http://www.etc.coop).

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Jasper Newsboy

(Also posted on Beaumont Enterprise website)

## **Woodville strikes bio-mass gold**

By JIMMY GALVAN

August 4, 2009

While others might be struggling with what to do with the timber industry's bi-products, Woodville and Tyler County just struck bio-mass gold.

East Texas Electric Cooperative (ETEC) announced last week that a contract has been finalized with North American Procurement Company (NAPCO) to develop a wood-fueled biomass plant in Woodville.

According to Paul Wielgus, plant manager for GDS Associates, the plant will be located on U.S. Hwy. 69 just south of the city of Woodville. An existing wood chipping mill is located at the plant site and the new facility will be located next to that facility. ETEC plans to build the biomass plant adjacent to NAPCO's existing operations in Woodville.

The plant will be the first of its kind for the area, converting excess wood materials into renewable, carbon-neutral power for ETEC member cooperatives. When completed, the plant will have the capability of producing 50 megawatts of power.

Wielgus said the economic impact of the plant on Tyler County has not been formulated but he added it was safe to say the plant will provide an economic boom for the Woodville area.

"You will not only have the plant construction and operation jobs but jobs from trucking industry, the gathering of wood and jobs that support."

Wielgus said the Woodville site was chosen because of its "wood-fuel supply."

"That area itself is considered one of the best wood baskets in the state," Wielgus said. "The supply of wood bio-mass is great in this area. You have to get where the wood is at and there are some areas that are just better than others."

Wielgus said a recent study by the Texas Forest Service indicated that the Woodville area was "one of the best areas for wood supply."

He said other areas were considered.

"But like in all projects, some things don't work out in some areas and when it came to wood supply, it all just came together best at this site," Wielgus said.

Wielgus said the estimated plant completion date is 2014.

"We are likely to get it online sooner but that is target date," Wielgus said. "We are in the process right now of selecting an engineer and an environmental permitting firm to file permits on the plant. We think by this time next year we will have the permits and that will give us three years to construct the plant."

Where this plant will show an immediate impact is on the estimated 250 jobs that will be created as result of the plant construction.

He estimated that there would be 20-25 permanent jobs at the plant.

"If you assume that most of the wood placed into the boiler will come from wood chipping, where you have crews working on unmerchantable timber, that could produce another 60 or more jobs from the project as well," Wielgus said.

Since 2005, Hurricanes Rita and Ike caused a lot of timber damage that now that timber could be used on this project.

The idea of a bio-mass plant is nothing relatively new. In fact, the Woodville site will make the third such bio-mass project in the state of Texas.

Projects are being proposed in Nacogdoches and in the Lufkin areas.

"The technology and process is proven," Wielgus said. "It has been used primarily in the wood industry at various mills, not to generate electricity. The boilers were used to process the wood. They would need steam for their process."

Wielgus said in this process, everything remains the same except the steam will be used to turn a turbine generator to create electricity.

"The idea to use it for power is not all that new it just hasn't been used as much as it will be used now," Wielgus said.

He said the project has been in the works for about a year.

"On behalf of ETEC, I'd like to thank NAPCO for their efforts to work with us on this innovative project," said Ryan Thomas, chief financial officer for ETEC. "We're delighted to invest money in our local economy while providing renewable energy for our members."

ETEC is made up of 10 not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives: Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative, Cherokee County Electric Cooperative, Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative, Houston County Electric Cooperative, Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative, Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative, Rusk County Electric Cooperative, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative and Wood County Electric Cooperative.

"In addition to bringing reliable, renewable power generation closer to our Cooperative members, this new facility will improve the availability of power following major outages such as those caused in recent years by Hurricanes Rita and Ike," said Kyle Kuntz, chief executive officer of Sam Houston Electric Cooperative.

ETEC has licensed NAPCO, locally owned and operated in Woodville, as the sole provider of wood chips and other wood materials to fuel the plant. This partnership will create a market for the abundant wood by-products already available in the area. This should be beneficial for the local timber industry in these difficult economic times.

"We want to express our sincere thanks to Congressman Kevin Brady, Congressman Joe Barton and Senator Robert Nichols for their significant help on behalf of this plant and all of our energy issues," said Edd Hargett, general manager of ETEC.

"I would like to thank the East Texas Electric Cooperative for their investment in Tyler County. Not only will this new wood chip burning plant bring much needed jobs to East Texas, it furthers the investment in alternative, renewable fuels when we need them the most," said Congressman Kevin Brady, R-The Woodlands.

State Senator Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville said, "I am glad to support ETEC's efforts to provide renewable energy through the planned construction of a biomass plant in Woodville.

Adding this plant that will utilize by-products of the timber industry is a plus for our economy and a great source of reliable power for our homes and businesses."

According to the Texas Comptroller's office, biomass is the oldest human energy source. Mankind has burned wood to create heat for tens of thousands of years. By 1890, commercial, residential and transportation sectors counted on wood as the primary fuel supply. The first power plant to generate electricity from wood was the Joseph McNeil generating station in Burlington, Vermont in 1984.

Biomass (including organic waste, fuels derived from plants and wood) recently surpassed hydroelectric power to become the largest source of renewable energy in the U.S. Industrial consumers use the majority of the energy generated from biomass. Most of this energy is generated at mills or paper plants that burn their own wood waste for power and heat

According to the Comptroller's office, a 1999 study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) stated that 4.9 full-time jobs are created by every megawatt of generating capacity. Applying this figure to the estimated 4,600 MW of total potential capacity in Texas indicates that the wood-fired energy industry could add more than 22,000 jobs to the state.

A 100 MW wood-fired biomass power plant being developed by Nacogdoches Power in Sacul is expected to create about 490 new jobs. The 8 MW wood gasification power plant being developed by Mesquite Fuels & Agriculture in Hamlin will employ eight to nine people, with additional employees needed to harvest wood.

Mesquite Fuels & Agriculture anticipates that employees will be paid between \$10 and \$14 per hour.

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Beaumont Enterprise

## **New power plant uses old idea**

By Kyle Peveto  
July 29, 2009

WOODVILLE - The next frontier in electricity production sounds incredibly backward.

Burning wood will power an electric plant proposed by an East Texas consortium of electric cooperatives to supply a portion of electricity to 46 counties.

Such biomass plants are more common in Maine and California, where most of the country's 120 such plants operate, according to the Biomass Power Association. But the plant could be the first of its kind in Texas.

"It's the perfect area," said Ryan Thomas, chief financial officer of East Texas Electric Cooperative, which plans to construct the plant. "The Woodville area's wood basket is the best in East Texas."

The small 50-megawatt plant would use the excess wood left after logging -- things like bark, tree limbs and some "dirty chips" that are lower quality than those used at paper mills, Thomas said Tuesday by phone from his Nacogdoches office. Often those materials are left on the forest floor.

"It's what you ought to do with the leftover biomass," Bill Carlson, a biomass consultant from Sacramento, Calif., said by phone Tuesday. "It's leftovers from logging operation (that) now they scrape up and burn it. It's much better than that."

A Woodville wood chip production and logging company, North American Procurement Co., is contracted as the sole supplier of wood chips.

Inside the plant, burning wood would heat boilers that convert the fire to steam and turn generators to produce electricity, project engineer Paul Wielgus said by phone from Atlanta.

Producing electricity from biomass is considered "carbon neutral," Wielgus said, because using the trees for fuel is no different than allowing a tree to die and rot in a forest, where it releases carbon.

The Woodville plant will employ about 25 people directly, Thomas said, and another 60 will likely work in the woods, preparing fuel for their conversion into chips for use at the plant. About 250 construction workers will be employed while building the plant, he said.

Thomas said the East Texas Electric Cooperative hopes to receive renewable energy tax credits and funding from the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service to build the plant, which is still in the design and engineering phase. It will take about a year to secure a power plant permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Thomas said, and construction is likely to begin in late 2010. The plant is expected to come online in 2013.

East Texas Electric Cooperative plans to build the plant on land northwest of the wood chip supplier, which is near a major electric transmission line.

Building the plant will likely not lower energy costs for customers in three Southeast Texas electric cooperatives that will receive the power -- the Jasper-Newton, Sam Houston and Deep East Texas electric cooperatives. But Thomas said it will not raise their prices, which average 9.6 cents per kilowatt hour.

"It's another fuel source that would diversify the fuel supply and help the economy in Texas," Thomas said. "We could do this kind of project in Louisiana or Arkansas, but we want to do it in East Texas."

A similar plant planned for Nacogdoches is being built to sell power to municipal utility services, but so far none has been completed in Texas.

Biomass plants will likely not become the major source of power for the United States, Carlson

said, because all biomass plants are small and use locally grown materials that might not be available outside regions with an existing forestry region.

"They're always small because the fuel is so difficult and expensive to transport. All biomass is local," Carlson said. "It's the perfect energy source for a co-op because a co-op is local and usually small."

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Alternative Energy Retailer

## **ETEC PLANS BIOMASS PLANT**

By AER STAFF

July 29, 2009

East Texas Electric Cooperative (ETEC) has finalized a contract with North American Procurement Co. to develop a wood-fueled biomass plant in Woodville, Texas.

The plant, which is the first of its kind in the area, will convert excess wood materials into renewable, carbon-neutral power for ETEC member cooperatives. ETEC expects the plant to create 250 jobs during the construction phase and 25 full-time positions once the plant is completed.

"In addition to bringing reliable, renewable power generation closer to our cooperative members, this new facility will improve the availability of power following major outages such as those caused in recent years by Hurricanes Rita and Ike," says Kyle Kuntz, CEO of Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, an ETEC member.

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Beaumont Enterprise

## **Woodville to get unique biomass plant**

By KYLE PEVETO

July 28, 2009

A contract has been finalized to bring a one-of-a-kind wood-fueled biomass plant to Woodville, East Texas Electric Cooperative announced today.

The plant will be the first of its kind in the area, converting excess wood materials into renewable, carbon-neutral power, stated the release. The company is partnering with North American Procurement Company for the project.

Read more in Monday's Beaumont Enterprise.

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KTRE (ABC Affiliate, Nacogdoches, TX); The Jasper Newsboy (Jasper, TX); Cherokeean Herald (Cherokee, TX)

## **Woodville to gain bio-mass plant**

Press Release

July 28, 2009

East Texas Electric Cooperative (ETEC) announced Tuesday, July 28 that a contract has been finalized with North American Procurement Company (NAPCO) to develop a wood-fueled biomass plant in Woodville.

The plant will be the first of its kind for the area, converting excess wood materials into renewable, carbon-neutral power for ETEC member cooperatives. When completed, the plant will have the capability of producing 50 megawatts of power."

"On behalf of ETEC, I'd like to thank NAPCO for their efforts to work with us on this innovative project," said Ryan Thomas, chief financial officer for ETEC. "We're delighted to invest money in our local economy while providing renewable energy for our members."

ETEC plans to build the biomass plant adjacent to NAPCO's existing operations in Woodville. "In addition to bringing reliable, renewable power generation closer to our Cooperative members, this new facility will improve the availability of power following major outages such as those caused in recent years by Hurricanes Rita and Ike," said Kyle Kuntz, chief executive officer of Sam Houston Electric Cooperative.

The plant will have a significant positive impact on the local economy, with over 250 jobs expected to be created during the construction phase and 25 full-time positions needed to operate the plant upon completion.

ETEC has licensed NAPCO, locally owned and operated in Woodville, as the sole provider of wood chips and other wood materials to fuel the plant. This partnership will create a market for the abundant wood by-products already available in the area. This should be beneficial for the local timber industry in these difficult economic times.

"We want to express our sincere thanks to Congressman Kevin Brady, Congressman Joe Barton and Senator Robert Nichols for their significant help on behalf of this plant and all of our energy issues," said Edd Hargett, general manager of ETEC.

"I would like to thank the East Texas Electric Cooperative for their investment in Tyler County. Not only will this new wood chip burning plant bring much needed jobs to East Texas, it furthers the investment in alternative, renewable fuels when we need them the most," said Congressman Kevin Brady, R-The Woodlands.



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ETEC is made up of 10 not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives: Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative, Cherokee County Electric Cooperative, Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative, Houston County Electric Cooperative, Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative, Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative, Rusk County Electric Cooperative, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative and Wood County Electric Cooperative. ETEC's mission is to provide low cost, reliable power to its members.