



EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT THE EFFECT WE'LL HAVE ON THE RIVER. IT'S PROBABLY ABOUT TIME FOR US TO Jump In.

If you were to take everything the opponents of Russell Biomass have said about our impact on the Westfield River as gospel, you might believe our plant was poised to destroy the river. Our opponents have been telling people, for example, that if we aren't stopped from building a 50-megawatt wood-fired renewable energy power plant on the site of the old Westfield River Paper Company mill, we'll end up draining the river to cool the plant. Our opponents also claim that the water we use and then return to the river will raise the river's temperature enough to destroy fish.

The trouble with such dire predictions is that they're simply not based on fact. We'd like to offer a few facts for you to consider. We've carefully studied fish stocking and migration, creeper mussel habitats, brook trout preservation needs and streamflow standards. We've done this in order to design a plant that won't disturb fish and wildlife populations, build the safest, most tightly permitted wood plant in New England history, and comply with the requirements of the federal and state governments, which have done their own studies on the river.

- Our plant can't go forward unless it passes muster with the EPA, DEP, MEPA, and Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.
- The river flow by our site averages **410 million gallons** per day over a year. It exceeds **1 billion gallons** a day in the spring.
- Current DEP regulations permit withdrawals of **55 million gallons** per day from the Westfield River system. The DEP maximum withdrawal limit at our site is **21 million gallons** per day.
- The maximum volume of water we will withdraw is **0.885 million gallons** a day: that's just **4.2%** of the maximum allowable withdrawal limit set by DEP.

- Our withdrawal from the river will total less than **1/4 of one percent** of the average river flow. Even measured against the single lowest flow day in the last century, our maximum withdrawal would come to **less than 7%** — well below the impact threshold.

Now let's look at our opponents' charge that the water the plant returns to the river will increase the overall water temperature enough to harm or kill fish.

- The natural water temperature fluctuation in the river over the course of the seasons of the year is more than **40 degrees**.
- The DEP limit for a temperature increase at our location is **5 degrees**.
- A scientific analysis required by DEP shows that the water returned to the river by Russell Biomass will increase the river temperature at our site **1/4 degree** on average and by no more than **1 degree** on the coldest winter day. So the greatest impact of our plant will be **20%** of what the DEP allows just **2.5%** of what Mother Nature herself brings on over the course of the year.

Russell Biomass isn't about running the river dry or warming it up. It's about responding to the increasing petroleum supply crisis and the inescapable need to develop clean, environmentally friendly alternatives to fossil fuel consumption. It's about bringing tax relief, lower electric rates and jobs to Russell through an industry of the future that's available to us now.

You don't have to take our word for any of this. Investigate for yourself. You'll discover that while our opponents have a lot to say, very little of it is backed by hard, scientific data. And the facts support the case for a biomass renewable energy plant in Russell.

Russell(Bio)Mass

Bringing new energy to the Valley.