TECHNICAL EVALUATION
&
PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

APPLICANT

Green Circle Bio Energy Inc.
2500 Green Circle Parkway
Cottondale, Florida 32431

Cottondale Wood Pellet Plant
Facility ID No. 0630058

PROJECT

Project No. 0630058-006-AC
Application for Minor Source Air Construction Permit
Wood Pellet Production Limit

COUNTY

Jackson County, Florida

PERMITTING AUTHORITY

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Air Resource Section
Northwest District Office
160 Governmental Center, Suite 308
Pensacola, Florida 32502-5794

1. GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Air Pollution Regulations

Projects at stationary sources with the potential to emit air pollution are subject to the applicable environmental laws specified in Section 403 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.). The statutes authorize the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) to establish regulations regarding air quality as part of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), which includes the following applicable chapters: 62-4 (Permits); 62-204 (Air Pollution Control – General Provisions); 62-210 (Stationary Sources – General Requirements); 62-212 (Stationary Sources – Preconstruction Review); 62-213 (Operation Permits for Major Sources of Air Pollution); 62-296 (Stationary Sources - Emission Standards); and 62-297 (Stationary Sources – Emissions Monitoring). Specifically, air construction permits are required pursuant to Rules 62-4, 62-210 and 62-212, F.A.C.

In addition, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes air quality regulations in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Part 60 specifies New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for numerous industrial categories. Part 61 specifies National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) based on specific pollutants. Part 63 specifies NESHAP based on the Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) for numerous industrial categories. The Department adopts these federal regulations on a quarterly basis in Rule 62-204.800, F.A.C.

Glossary of Common Terms

Because of the technical nature of the project, the permit contains numerous acronyms and abbreviations, which are defined in Appendix A of this permit.

Facility Description and Location

The Cottondale Wood Pellet Plant processes raw logs, primarily southern and yellow pine, by chipping them and grinding and compressing the chips into wood pellets for use as fuel. The facility is located at 2500 Green Circle Parkway, off U.S. Highway 231, south of Cottondale, in Jackson County; UTM Coordinates: Zone 16, 653.8~~9~~ km East and 3401.68 km North Latitude: 30° 44’ 17” North and Longitude: 85° 23’ 33” West.
This site is in an area that is in attainment (or designated as unclassifiable) for all air pollutants subject to state and federal Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS).

Facility Regulatory Categories

- The facility is not a major source of hazardous air pollutants (HAP).
- The facility has no units subject to the acid rain provisions of the Clean Air Act.
- The facility is a Title V major source of air pollution in accordance with Chapter 213, F.A.C.
- The facility is not major stationary source in accordance with Rule 62-212.400, F.A.C., for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) of Air Quality.

Project Description

This permitting action establishes a combined maximum annual production limit of 554,304 tons of wood pellets per year for Pelletizing Lines 1, 2 and 3. The production limit will be used to ensure compliance with the previously established VOC emissions limit of 177.1 tons per year. The production limit is based on the VOC emissions factor of 0.639 pounds per ton pellets determined from compliance testing.

Processing Schedule

June 14, 2010 Received application for a minor source air pollution construction permit.

2. PSD APPLICABILITY

General PSD Applicability

For areas currently in attainment with the state and federal AAQS or areas otherwise designated as unclassifiable, the Department regulates major stationary sources of air pollution in accordance with Florida's PSD preconstruction review program as defined in Rule 62-212.400, F.A.C. Under preconstruction review, the Department first must determine if a project is subject to the PSD requirements ("PSD applicability review") and, if so, must conduct a PSD preconstruction review. A PSD applicability review is required for projects at new and existing major stationary sources. In addition, proposed projects at existing minor sources are subject to a PSD applicability review to determine whether potential emissions *from the proposed project itself* will exceed the PSD major stationary source thresholds. A facility is considered a major stationary source with respect to PSD if it emits or has the potential to emit:

- 250 tons per year or more of any regulated air pollutant; or
- 100 tons per year or more of any regulated air pollutant and the facility belongs to one of the following 28 PSD-major facility categories: fossil fuel-fired steam electric plants of more than 250 million British thermal units per hour heat input, coal cleaning plants (with thermal dryers), Kraft pulp mills, portland cement plants, primary zinc smelters, iron and steel mill plants, primary aluminum ore reduction plants, primary copper smelters, municipal incinerators capable of charging more than 250 tons of refuse per day, hydrofluoric, sulfuric, and nitric acid plants, petroleum refineries, lime plants, phosphate rock processing plants, coke oven batteries, sulfur recovery plants, carbon black plants (furnace process), primary lead smelters, fuel conversion plants, sintering plants, secondary metal production plants, chemical process plants, fossil fuel boilers (or combinations thereof) totaling more than 250 million British thermal units per hour heat input, petroleum storage and transfer units with a total storage capacity exceeding 300,000 barrels, taconite ore processing plants, glass fiber processing plants and charcoal production plants.

Once it is determined that a project is subject to PSD preconstruction review, the project emissions are compared to the "significant emission rates" defined in Rule 62-210.200, F.A.C., for the following pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO); nitrogen oxides (NO_X); sulfur dioxide (SO_2); particulate matter (PM); particulate matter with a mean particle diameter of 10 microns or less (PM_{10}); volatile organic compounds (VOC); lead (Pb); fluorides (Fl); sulfuric acid mist (SAM); hydrogen sulfide (H_2S); total reduced sulfur (TRS), including H_2S; reduced sulfur compounds, including H_2S; municipal waste combustor organics measured as total tetra- through octa-chlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans; municipal waste combustor metals measured as particulate matter; municipal waste combustor acid gases measured as SO_2 and hydrogen chloride (HCl); municipal solid waste landfills emissions measured as non-methane organic compounds (NMOC); and mercury (Hg). In addition, significant emissions rate also means any emissions rate or any net emissions increase associated with a major stationary source or major modification which would construct within 10 kilometers of a Class I area and have an impact on such area equal to or greater than 1 $\mu g/m^3$, 24-hour average.

If the potential emission exceeds the defined significant emissions rate of a PSD pollutant, the project is considered "significant" for the pollutant and the applicant must employ the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) to minimize the emissions and evaluate the air quality impacts. Although a facility or project may be *major* with respect to PSD for only one regulated pollutant, it may be required to install BACT controls for several "significant" regulated pollutants.

PSD Applicability for Project

This project limits production of wood pellets to 554,304 tons per year in order to limit VOC emissions from the pelletizers to 177.1 tons per year. By limiting wood pellet production, facility-wide potential emissions of CO, NOx, PM/PM10, SO2 and VOC do not change.

This facility currently has NOX, PM/PM10 and VOC potential emissions of 245.2, 226.54, and 226.2 tons per year, respectively. It is not considered a major stationary source with respect to PSD because existing potential emissions do not exceed the 250 tons per year threshold and because the facility is not a listed major stationary source in the "List of 28" so the 100 tons per year threshold does not apply. Based on these facts it is determined that the project is not subject to PSD preconstruction review.

3. APPLICATION REVIEW

Application Fee – AC-M1- Minor Modification - $250

Discussion of Emissions

VOC emissions for the pelletizers are limited to 177.1 tons per year, which limits production of wood pellets to 554,304 tons per year.

State Requirements - Rule 62-296.320(1)(a), F.A.C.

Federal NSPS Provisions – N/A

Federal NESHAP Provisions – N/A

Other Draft Permit Requirements – N/A

4. PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

The Department makes a preliminary determination that the proposed project will comply with all applicable state and federal air pollution regulations as conditioned by the draft permit. This determination is based on a technical review of the complete application, reasonable assurances provided by the applicant, and the conditions specified in the draft permit. Rick Prusa is the project engineer responsible for reviewing the application and drafting the permit. Additional details of this analysis may be obtained by contacting the project engineer at the 850/595-0634, or rick.prusa@dep.state.fl.us.