

Part 3 RAWSEP extended commentary, 1 Burlington Vermont McNeil wood burning power plant is planned to be 100 percent owned by Burlington Electric Department B E D in six months rather than immediately shutting it down. 1A Vermont Burlington. Burlington Seeks to Buy Out Its McNeil Plant Partners. RAWSEP View. The Burlington City Council has called on Burlington Electric to reduce emissions from the McNeil wood burning power plant by 25 percent in five years and 50 percent in 10 years. The idea of using wood burning to heat a University Medical Center is illogical since the only benefit to a Medical Center would be increased admissions for PM2.5 air pollution generated medical problems. RAWSEP has the opinion that drying wood before burning wood will not cut emissions by an appreciable degree. RAWSEP's view is that McNeil should not burn wood to begin with. There are cheaper and clean alternatives to wood burning in 2024 such as wind, solar and geothermal power. The McNeil plant is losing money and the cost of pursuing clean energy in the form of wind, solar and geothermal will be balanced out by the savings on the last decade or more, current and ongoing, monetary losses of the McNeil plant and balanced out by the savings on healthcare costs for state residents who are sickened and often face early deaths because of the adverse health effects of the PM2.5 emitted by wood burning. Wood burning emits 90 percent PM2.5, particulate matter of 2.5 micrometer size, the perfect size to infiltrate the human lung setting off a cascade of human health problems and early deaths. Wood burning emits 2.8 times the PM2.5 and CO2 as the fossil fuel coal burning. Wood burning emits 450 times the PM2.5 as the fossil fuel natural gas burning. Wood burning PM2.5 and CO2 emissions also hasten climate change which Vermont has recently experienced in the form of newly dramatic climate caused flooding. RAWSEP View. Under this Burlington Electric Department plan wood burning will continue at the McNeil Plant despite the current Burlington mayor running on a platform of shutting down the McNeil wood burning plant. The best case scenario hinted at by the mayor would be for Burlington to shut down the McNeil wood burning power plant quickly although not immediately given that it will take 6 months to buy out the 2 partners. RAWSEP article Excerpts from the point of view of environmentalists. McNeil has come under significant criticism from environmental advocates for being the single largest source of carbon pollution in the state and its costly method of generating electricity. The plant burns hundreds of tons of wood chips each year, mostly from waste wood on logging jobs. The plant has also operated at a loss for seven of the past nine years and was on track to lose about \$8 million last year, according to the joint owners' annual financial reports. One of McNeil's sharpest critics, environmental lawyer Nick Persampieri, said it struck him as odd the city would want full ownership of such a money-losing enterprise. Because of the lack of profitability, now they B E D are going to bear 100 percent of the losses instead of 50 percent. RAWSEP Article Excerpts the surprising changed opinion of the new Burlington Mayor. The development comes as something of a surprise given Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak's pledge during last year's campaign to develop a responsible transition plan to close the McNeil plant. Mulvaney-Stanak said she still supports ending the burning of wood chips for electricity at McNeil eventually. She has realized the site holds promise for



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innovative renewable energy projects that could be difficult to pull off with partners involved, she said. It takes two additional steps with two additional owners right now, she said. RAWSEP article Excerpts from the point of view of the Burlington Electric Department B E D leader. It's unclear whether the ownership change would affect B E D's long-sought goal of using the waste heat from the plant to generate steam for heating buildings, most recently at the University of Vermont Medical Center. Springer said he wanted to make it crystal clear that the move is not a step toward plant closure. B E D is considering other energy initiatives on the Intervale property, including adding battery storage and a wood chip dryer. The city council last year required B E D to explore whether using waste heat from the plant to dry the green wood chips before they are burned, much like seasoning firewood, would improve the plant's efficiency. Seven Days publisher. October 15, 2024. City officials announced on Tuesday they would try to obtain full ownership of the 40-year-old wood-burning power-generating facility. Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates, a 501c3 nonprofit organization. The Burlington Electric Department B E D is entering negotiations to buy out the co-owners of the 40-year-old wood-fired McNeil Generating Station established in 1984, which would make the city of Burlington Vermont its sole owner. B E D owns 50 percent of the plant, while Green Mountain Power, the state's largest utility, owns 31 percent. The balance, 19 percent, is owned by the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority, which supports Vermont's municipal and cooperative electric utilities. The three parties will enter a six-month negotiation to see if they can reach an agreement to transfer the minority ownership stakes, which would be subject to regulatory approval. The Burlington City council has called for the Burlington Electric Department B E D to reduce emissions from the plant by 25 percent in five years and 50 percent in 10 years. 1B Vermont Burlington. October 15, 2024. Burlington Electric seeks to buy out city's woodburning plant from joint owners VT Digger. But the plant produces power primarily by burning wood chips left over from logging jobs releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere as a result. Burlington Seeks to Buy Out Its McNeil Plant Partners Seven Days Vermont's Independent Voice. Seven Days. City officials announced Tuesday they would try to obtain full ownership of the 40-year-old woodburning power generating facility. Report finds no viable green alternative to Burlington's McNeil Generating Plant WCAX. A new report for the. 1C Vermont Burlington. October 16, 2024. 3 minute 22 second video released 10/16/2024. Report finds no viable green alternative to Burlington's McNeil Generating Plant, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiMi8gS3IIM> 1D Vermont Burlington. October 15, 2024. 38 minute video released 10/17/2024. Mayor Emma Mulvaney Stanak. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFmsayM_G1M Update on McNeil Generating Station. Text box for Youtube video. Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak and Burlington Electric General Manager Darren Springer will share an update related to the McNeil Generating Station and then take questions from the media. 10/14/2024 <https://linktr.ee/townmeetingtv>



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