



Biomass Power Association Statement on EPA's Ruling on Non-Hazardous Secondary Waste Materials

Rule Recognizes Importance of Biomass as a Valuable Fuel

Washington, DC – December 21, 2012 – The following statement was issued by Biomass Power Association President & CEO Bob Cleaves in response to EPA's ruling on non-hazardous secondary waste materials (NHSM) issued today:

"Biomass Power Association commends Administrator Jackson and her staff for EPA's work. We all share the same goal – to develop rules that are both practical and achievable while also protective of the public health. This ruling marks the first time that the Agency has recognized these materials as fuel rather than waste, in agreement with many states' treatment of these materials.

"While we continue to study the Rule, it appears that EPA understands the importance of biomass as a valuable fuel. For example, the Rule recognizes the significance of biomass energy plants being able to utilize a wide range of organic materials in the production of clean energy – materials that would otherwise be landfilled causing greenhouse gas emissions.

"Organic material such as agricultural debris, pallets and other clean wood-based fuels serve as important resources for making renewable electricity, particularly in California. EPA's announcement that it does not view such materials as 'wastes' is historic. The federal government is now joining the State of California and other states that have for long considered these materials as important fuels, and encourages their use in biomass plants to avoid landfilling, open-burning or other non-sustainable practices.

"We reiterate our need for a longer compliance periods, and for rules that are based on what is achievable in the 'real world.' We look forward to working with EPA in a manner that secures our future and continues to provide good paying rural jobs while delivering clean, renewable energy to the nation."

Biomass power is a \$1 billion industry with 80 facilities in 20 states and provides over 14,000 jobs nationwide. Power plants are predominately located in rural communities, creating thousands of jobs and producing millions in revenue for small towns. Biomass power is a clean and abundant source of electricity that will allow states to pursue even more aggressive goals for increasing their use of renewable energy in the future.