

Representatives,

The Vermont Dept of Health estimates that wood smoke costs Vermonters between \$105M and \$238M annually in health related costs, about 30X more than all fossil fuel (and PFAS) health related incidents combined. While it is true that Ryegate's contribution to these costs is small, Ryegate's (and McNeil's) contributions are not insignificant. Ryegate emits several tons of PM 2.5 into the air Vermonters breathe every year.

Ryegate also emits over 200,000 tons of CO2 into the atmosphere every year. Climate scientists warn us that CO2 from biogenic sources are just as harmful as all other CO2, but Vermont leaders continue to turn a blind eye to these emissions.

Electricity from woody biomass is also expensive. ISO-NE grid power is about half the cost of Ryegate and is seven times less CO2 polluting.

It is long past time to remove the special treatment provided to the biomass electric plants, and the incentives, the requirement to purchase electricity from these plants harms Vermonters health and pocket books and contributes to climate change.

It is easy to ignore the hidden health costs and environmental harms created by Ryegate when confronted by the more visible short term disruption caused if Ryegate were to shut down--but it is not the right thing to do on Vermonters behalf.

Please do the right thing and move to end the special treatment, the extensions to deadlines, and the incentives for Ryegate and all biomass plants.

Thanks.

Pike Porter