

Suskwa chiefs sign cogen deal

By Shannon Hurst - Smithers Interior News - February 06, 2008



Cogeneration plant CEO Jack Sebastian, right, and BioMass's Rick Hopp expect the new plant to be running by 2009.

Hazelton/Interior News Shannon Hurst/The Interior News

The Suskwa Chiefs are one step closer to the proposed cogeneration plant in the Suskwa after they signed a \$25 million deal with the Pacific Northwest BioMass Corporation executives last Wednesday.

While the agreement has already been in the making for more than two years, CEO of the cogen plant Jack Sebastian and chief of operations Dave Marko of the Suskwa Corporation said they are both confident that the plant will be up and running sometime in mid 2009.

BioMass spokesperson Rick Hopp said they are confident that the project will be a success and they hope this will be only one of several cogeneration sites in the region.

“We respect the territory and concerns of the chiefs and we are confident that we can work together to build for the future of the area,” he said.

“We are also aware of the problems in the area and hope that this will help in some ways to stabilize the local economy.”

The agreement was signed at the Gitksan Treaty office by the six Suskwa Chiefs, and two PNBC executives after a small discussion and a review of the plans.

The next step for both organizations will be to conduct environmental studies and investigate the cost of running a three-kilometre line to the main grid from the proposed generation site.


In addition, PNBC said one of the most important things to guarantee success is securing the fiber rights, which Sebastian said won't be a problem.

There were several community members attending the signing ceremony. There were no known voices of opposition.

Several chiefs expressed interest in starting similar projects in their territory.

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