

Rockingham County Complex Biomass Facility Tour November 8, 2013



Participating Groups:

The Lee Energy Committee, the Oyster River Cooperative School District and ORCSD Sustainability Committee

Rockingham County Complex Biomass Facility



About four years ago, Rockingham County made a capital investment to install a biomass heating plant at its County Complex.

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In a state like New Hampshire, which is @85% forest, the conversion to biomass has both saved money and fostered energy

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They utilize three bays for off-loading chips. Each bay holds one truck load (18-wheeler) of chips.

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From the bays the chips are transferred inside via this auger, which slowly travels across all three bays, while turning.

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The 'bole chips' are from the main body of the tree...no limbs or branches. They are partially dried before delivery.

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- Inside the facility with Paul Allen, the plant manager, formerly a resident of Durham.

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Chips pass from the bins through a wall onto a conveyor belt. They are then fed to a transfer point in the middle.

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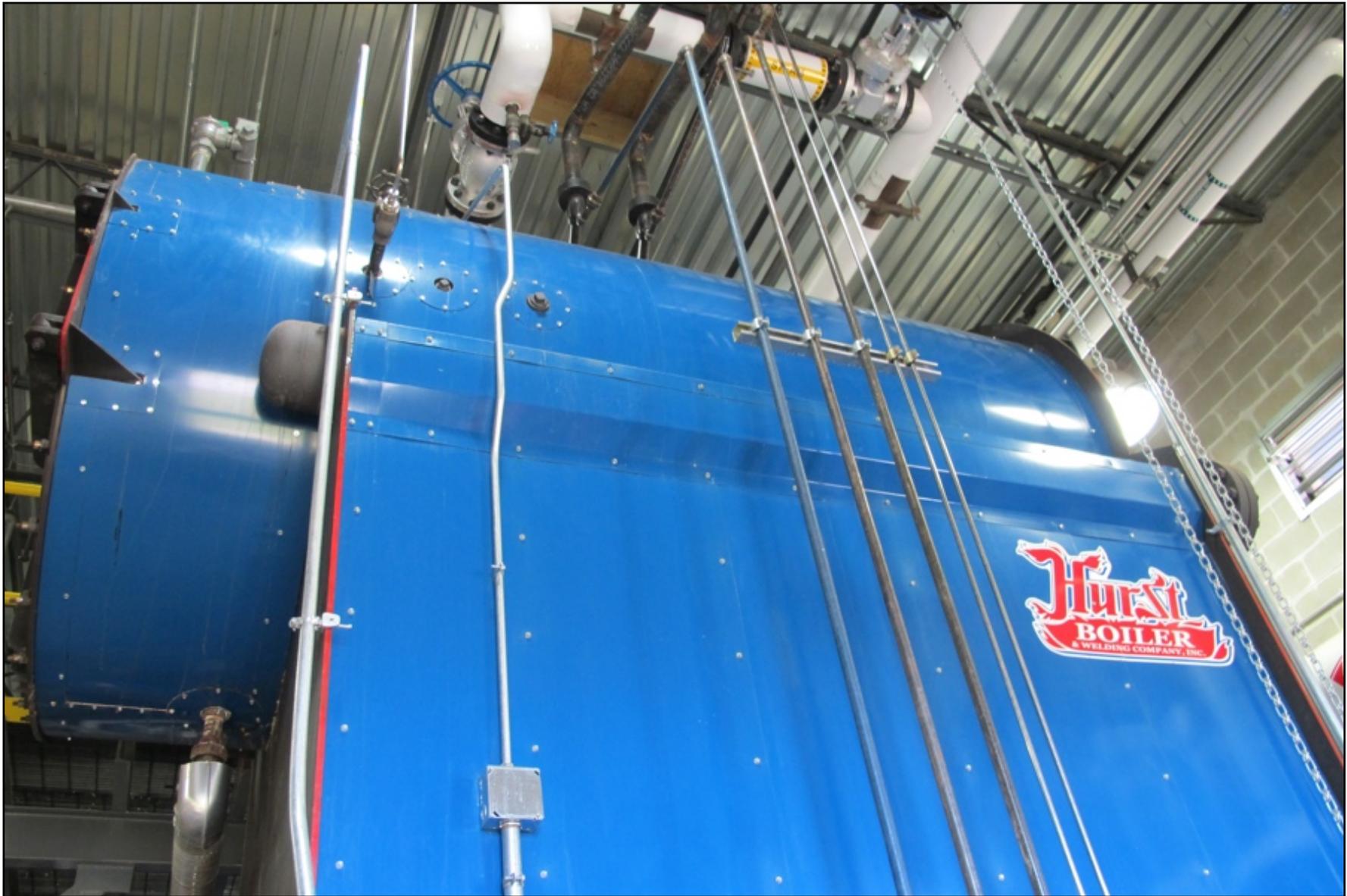
- A closer shot of chips being conveyed.

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- The chips then travel up a second conveyor belt and into the furnaces/fireboxes.

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A photo of one of two boilers. The boilers are operated one at a time in an alternating fashion.

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The whole plant is operated by computerized control panels that are governed an array of sensors.

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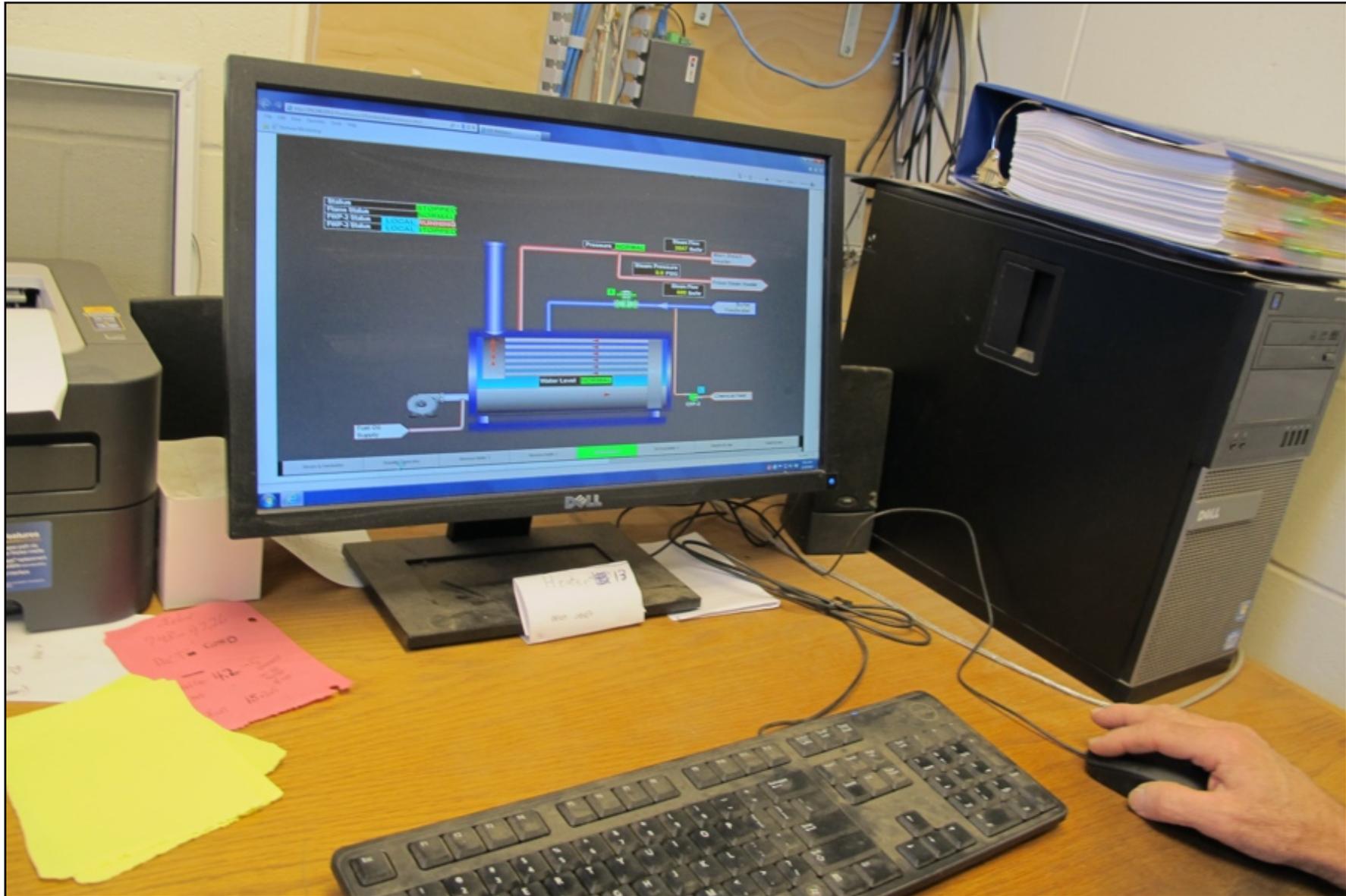
A close-up of the control panel....one person can operate the facility.

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And, it can be done from a desktop computer.

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A schematic representation guides the operator.

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A relatively small quantity of ash is the physical by-product. The unit burns very efficiently.

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And there is virtually no smoke or air particulate. The plant far exceeds current emission standards. Pretty impressive stuff!!