

5 September 2008

To: Mick Robinson  
Deputy Commissioner  
Montana University System

From: Bob Duringer  
Vice President for Administration & Finance  
The University of Montana

Subject: Information for the Environmental Quality Council

As requested, I am providing you with an update on the two areas of interest expressed by the Environmental Quality Council.

#### Farm to College

- Began in 2003. The objective of the program is to support Montana food producers by “buying local”.
- To date we have purchased approximately \$3,000,000 of locally produced food from 53 different suppliers.
- Last fiscal year we purchased \$702,000 from local producers, this represents 20% of all the food we purchase.
- When available, we buy breads, fruits, vegetables, beef, bacon and various types of salad dressings.
- We have found that locally produced foods have a longer shelf life, taste better, and are very price competitive.

#### Use of Biomass Technologies at the UM-Missoula Campus

- In 2007 Facilities Services and the School of Forestry conducted a study to determine the feasibility of using wood products from our Lubrecht Experimental Forest as fuel for wood fired boiler on the Missoula Campus. The boiler would be

installed to replace/augment our current boilers fired by natural gas.

- Due to the cyclic nature of demand for steam on campus two boiler sizes were evaluated, a 30,000 lb/hour unit and a 3200 lb/hour unit.
- After an extensive analysis we concluded that:
  - Neither boiler had a good economic payback. The larger boiler would take 29 years to reach payback and the smaller boiler would take 47 years.
  - We also determined that Lubrecht Forest could not, in perpetuity, provide sufficient fuel for our needs.
  - Lastly, we factored in the rising cost of fuel that would be required to haul fuel to Missoula and determined that this further exacerbated the payback periods for both boilers.
  - We concluded that the environmental impact of having a wood fired heat plant on the Missoula campus was very problematic in terms of both obtaining the required permits from DEQ and in terms of the public relations problems that would arise from the citizens of Missoula.
- Due to the above problems and issues the project was determined to be unworkable at the present time.

I hope this will address any questions the EQC may have. I'm available for questions at any time.