



## Our Perspective About “Keeping the Lights On”

A film titled “Keeping the Lights On” is being shown to convey the specific views of individuals who wish to gain support in opposition to Dairyland Power Cooperative’s necessary construction of a landfill. Dairyland is both “keeping the lights on” for cooperative members and complying with environmental regulations. Dairyland has reviewed the film and offers another perspective on some of the issues raised by this group.

Additional information on the environmental controls and Genoa Off-site Project, including beneficial reuse and Frequently Asked Questions, are available at [www.dairynet.com](http://www.dairynet.com).

### Investing in Existing Coal Power Plants to Clean the Air

As a responsible community member and power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative *is reducing air emissions* (gases released from the combustion processes in the power plant) from our largest existing Genoa and Alma coal power plants. These facilities reliably provide the majority of power for more than a half million people served by the Dairyland system of cooperatives.

Current air emission control technologies, such as the sulfur dioxide scrubber that Dairyland is installing at Genoa, will improve the air quality in the communities where we serve and live. Additionally, these controls are environmentally-responsible solutions necessary for compliance with state and federal air quality regulations such as the Wisconsin Acid Rain Law and the USEPA Clean Air Interstate Rule.

### Investing in Renewable Energy

Dairyland agrees that investing in renewable energy resources such as wind, hydropower, digesters and biomass is essential. Dairyland launched its Evergreen renewable energy program in 1998 to support renewable energy wind resources. Today, our diverse renewable portfolio includes wind, landfill gas-to-energy, animal waste-to-energy digesters and hydropower from our Flambeau Hydro Station near Ladysmith, Wis. We are pursuing more renewable resources to help meet our members’ future energy needs. Unfortunately, a large amount of renewable energy resources cannot be acquired overnight due to limitations in equipment manufacturing (i.e. wind turbines) and transmission availability in many areas.

Dairyland has invested in more landfill gas and wind power again this year. We are continuing to pursue all options regarding renewable resources and transmission improvements to support these types of resources, with more wind and biomass generation already planned. In addition, Dairyland is among the first to join the National Renewables Cooperative which is focused on the development and deployment of renewable energy.

### Improving the Environment versus “Trading Pollution”

Dairyland will be removing more sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury from plant air emissions. This will improve air quality and that benefits everyone in the region. By capturing these gases along with the fly ash before they are emitted to the air, we are able to control these materials and either recycle or safely dispose of them in a permitted landfill. Both beneficial reuse and landfill disposal are specifically regulated to protect human health and the environment. Therefore, we are not “trading air pollution for ground pollution,” but rather we are cleaning the air and safely recycling or disposing of the air contaminants to the overall environmental benefit.

### Working with Landowners

Dairyland recognizes that a visit from anyone regarding the potential transfer of one's real estate or personal property can be emotional and stressful. It is understandable that landowners who were contacted by Dairyland representatives felt upset despite the best efforts of Dairyland's staff to be professional and respectful.

**However, the negative statements attributed to Dairyland Real Estate/Right-of-Way professionals in the film are simply not true.** Dairyland's staff works with landowners on a daily basis and simply do not threaten property owners. The property owners that were most directly affected by this project were visited by a single staff member and were not given a deadline for signing any documents. It is Dairyland's practice to share information with affected property owners first. Property owners must always be apprised of their rights under Wisconsin law before any type of negotiations or informational exchange can occur. This means that Dairyland

is mandated by the State of Wisconsin Department of Commerce to include delivery of information regarding the exercise of eminent domain whenever Dairyland acquires any kind of land or land right. We understand that the delivery of this information during an initial unexpected visit can unfortunately create more anxiety for the property owner and, at times, may even interfere with any reasonable exchange of information, but it is required by state law that we do so.

### Converting Genoa #3 to a Coal Gasification or Natural Gas Facility

Dairyland supports research into new technologies such as coal gasification, owns a natural gas generating facility (Elk Mound) and is investigating a second natural gas generating facility for the future. **However, the conversion of Genoa #3 to an Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) or natural gas fired plant is not feasible for several reasons:**

- Genoa #3 has a life expectancy of another 20-30 years of baseload power production. Even if it were technically feasible to convert Genoa #3 to IGCC—which is essentially a chemical plant—permitting the facility would be very improbable. Currently, there are only two IGCC plants in the country. Issues with permitting, reliability and very high cost make them difficult, if not impossible, to build today.
- Due to the design of Genoa #3, “conversion” to an IGCC is not possible and would essentially require a complete rebuild.
- The Genoa Site is too small for an IGCC plant, which requires much more land than is available.
- Natural gas pipeline constraints and other factors also prohibit natural gas use at Genoa #3.

### Purchasing Power on the Wholesale Market

A Clean Wisconsin representative claims in the film that Dairyland should just shut down the Genoa plant and buy wholesale power. This “solution” reflects a lack of understanding about baseload power supply and the wholesale market for a number of reasons:

- Purchasing power on the market in the Midwest generally means purchasing electricity generated by coal power plants operated by another utility.
- When electricity is purchased on the wholesale market you cannot select the type of power you purchase (i.e. renewable only).
- Availability of electricity is not guaranteed when buying off the market, potentially compromising service reliability.
- The wholesale market is volatile and can be **very expensive**. Depending upon the weather and other factors, such as scheduled maintenance or unscheduled power plant outages in the region, energy prices can double or quadruple very quickly, which could negatively impact the economic well-being of our region and raise rates for our cooperative consumers.

### Additional corrections to statements in the “Keeping the Lights On” film:

**Claim:** Waste will be more toxic.

**Fact:** To the contrary, coal combustion byproducts generated after the scrubber is installed will be less toxic than Dairyland’s current fly ash, which is not a hazardous or toxic waste. Trace metal content of scrubber material is less than fly ash and comparable to that of soil.

**Claim:** The landfill has a liner like a pool liner.

**Fact:** Landfill liners are not just pool liners. The landfill liner is a state-of-the-art composite liner system with three layers, including two to four feet of clay or low permeability material, a geosynthetic clay liner and a 60 mil HDPE geomembrane. All water that is captured by the liner is collected and recycled or treated at an off-site wastewater treatment facility.

**Claim:** Number of trucks per day will be 40 to 50, with trucks going every 15 minutes.

**Fact:** Based on the current estimate of 165,000 cubic yards of material to be disposed of per year, approximately **12** pneumatic tankers (37 cubic yard capacity) per day, seven days a week, would carry the dry material from Genoa to the disposal site. However, since a number of factors (such as the type of coal used) could impact trucking, we are using a range of eight to 20 trucks per day.

**Claim:** Dairyland is ignoring mercury, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and greenhouse gases.

**Fact:** Our emission controls are designed specifically to reduce mercury, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. Currently, technology does not exist at the commercial level to remove greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels. However, we have been and will continue to support research efforts for the capture and sequestration of carbon dioxide, including participation in a recent Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) pilot project.

### Dairyland Power Cooperative’s Goal Truly is: “Keeping the Lights On”