

**Biomass Task Group  
June 29, 2022  
6th Meeting – Agenda**

Pre-Reads

- Biomass facility permits
- 2021 Air Emissions

Meeting Goals:

- *Focus on air emissions of woody biomass*

8:30 AM      Introductions and Reminder of Protocol of the Group and Approval of Minutes from [6/15 Meeting](#)

Minutes were approved.

8:35 AM      Overview of Air Quality and Wood Combustion

Jared Ulmer, the Climate & Health Program Coordinator at Vermont Department of Health, shared the following [presentation](#) and answered questions. The following were questions for him to follow up on:

1. Health effects associated specifically with McNeil & Ryegate (including Asthma and Cancer information)
2. Comparing wood versus oil/gas as a heating fuel

9:00 AM      Ryegate and McNeil Biomass Plants Air Emissions

Megan O'Toole, VT DEC, and John Hinkley, consultant to VT DEC, shared the permits for [McNeil](#) and [Ryegate](#) and discussed the [emissions](#) specific to these two plants and the implications to the health impacts. John Hinkley specifically spoke to the following components:

- 1) Distinctions between regulations on wood-fired power plants vs. wood stoves;
- 2) The pollutants controlled;
- 3) Similarities between McNeil and Ryegate;
- 4) Types of controls on the power plants to regulate air quality;

9:35 AM      Public Comment

Public comment was made by Cheryl Joy Lipton and Annette Smith. Comments can be viewed [here](#).

9:45 AM      Discussion among Task Group on Implications for Task Group's developing recommendations

This agenda item was skipped due to time.

9:55 AM      Next Meeting's Topic and Presenters

We will be joined by Burlington Electric Department Staff at our next meeting to consider the application of a district heat project at McNeil and why this has not been advanced to date.

10:00 AM      Adjourn