



EPA Tailoring Rule Threatens Jobs, Renewable Energy

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule will jeopardize essential renewable energy projects, threaten green energy jobs, and waste billions in investment, according to a new study by Forisk Consulting.¹ Here are some of the key findings:

The Tailoring Rule puts 134 biomass power projects at risk at a time when we need renewable energy sources and green jobs. This could result in:

- 12,000-28,000 fewer renewable energy jobs;
- \$18 billion fewer dollars of capital investment in renewable energy;
- 5,384 fewer megawatts of renewable electricity generation; and
- 53.4 million fewer tons of wood biomass consumed each year.

The Tailoring Rule jeopardizes renewable energy goals in up to 30 states.

Because of the potential to delay or stop the development of woody biomass electricity projects, up to 30 states would fail to meet a 15% renewable target by 2021, especially in wood-rich regions with limited renewable energy options, such as the South and Northeast.

The Tailoring Rule has already affected at least 23 biomass power projects. These projects—which would have developed 1,519 megawatts of renewable energy—have been delayed, put on hold, or halted entirely.

The Tailoring Rule will affect nearly all biomass power plants and projects, along with other forest products projects. “[A]s written, the Tailoring Rule would apply to 87% of currently operating and announced wood-to-electricity projects...and 92% of pulp and paper mills.”

The Tailoring Rule reduces family-wage, green jobs in rural areas. The Tailoring Rule hampers green job growth at a time of high unemployment and when the President pledged to create 800,000 new green jobs

Congressional lawmakers from both sides of the aisle, 113 acclaimed scientists, and numerous bipartisan state and local elected officials have opposed the EPA's unprecedented regulation of biomass and have urged the agency to recognize the full carbon benefits of biomass energy. This move would reflect sound science, Congressional intent, and the stated policies of the President.

¹ Dr. Brooks Mendell, Amanda Hamsley Lang, and Dr. Tim Sydor were the principal investigators and authors of Forisk Consulting's December 2010 study, “Economic and Regional Impact Analysis of the Treatment of Biomass Energy Under the EPA Greenhouse Gas Rule.” The study was commissioned by NAFO and is available at www.nafoalliance.org/impact-study.