

Availability of wood wastes & residues as a potential fuel source for the Holnam cement plant located north of Laporte, Colorado

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The Holnam Company operates a cement plant north of Laporte, Colorado. They are looking to potentially convert from coal, gas, and petroleum coke to wood as an alternative fuel source. If a complete fuel conversion is successful, the Laporte plant could potentially use up to 350 bone dry tons of wood per day.

Research served to characterize wood wastes and residues, delineate wood components that could be utilized, and determine the availability and quantity of wood that could be recovered to reach this objective. Research was conducted at the regional level to determine the availability of various types and quantities of wood residues. Following regional research, locally generated residues were evaluated to determine if specific needs could be met. Inspection was made of the four main sources of wood residues: Municipal Solid Waste, Construction & Demolition Debris, Primary and Secondary Wood Processor, and Forest Residues. Discussions will be presented related to potential obstacles in recovering such materials.

This paper is intended to initiate and encourage further knowledge of the sources of wood wastes, the quantity of wood wastes that are available, and the considerations of what is involved in potential recovery. It will promote the awareness that there is an abundance of wood that is thrown away, which could potentially be recovered and utilized for energy, or other purposes specific to needs/interests.