

FOREST PRODUCT PROCUREMENT STANDARDS

GRU's objective is to promote sustainable forestry practices in conjunction with the operation of the proposed facility including the option of providing financial incentives for fuel harvested under certified forest stewardship programs. GRU will be responsible for setting the levels of incentives, establishing the certification standards, and setting the target percentages of fuels to be obtained from certified forests¹. GRU also seeks to discourage excessive nutrient removal as part of certain procurement practices and the proliferation of harmful exotic invasive species. In order to enable these objectives, the Respondent is asked to describe their proposed operations in order to comply with the following minimum requirements.

1. Wood harvested as the primary product of forest plantations will only be accepted if certified under GRU's Forest Stewardship program¹.
2. Other forest waste products will be permissible without certification, including logging residues, residuals from urban vegetation management and land clearing, and tree stand thinning for longleaf restoration, overstocking, and fire fuel reduction. Stumps from any but urban land clearing will not be permissible.
3. Before being accepted, the type and source of any forest related biomass must be documented in sufficient detail to allow the location of its harvest to be ascertained. GRU will be responsible for establishing a quality control program to verify this information, and may choose to follow a sample of trucks to the loading and/or harvest site as part of this verification and monitoring of the operation. Suppliers engaged in fraudulent practices will be barred from providing additional fuel.
4. The Respondent must honor the stewardship premiums applicable for any fuel purchased, and will pass those premiums directly through to GRU separate and apart of any other pricing element. GRU will assume the risk of payments made to fraudulent claims, unless the Respondent has not required the appropriate level of documentation.
5. Loads of logging residue that may reasonably be expected to have more than 20% leafy matter by dry weight shall be rejected. GRU will randomly test loads and provide guidance to the respondent on what the visual indications are of excess leafy matter.

¹ The Forest Stewardship Certification Program premium is an incentive program that will provide a percentage premium over biomass fuel prices paid under normal procurement (or a reduction in tipping fee). The premium levels may reflect different amounts (tiers) based on the level of stewardship associated with different certification programs, and may vary through time. GRU will provide a stable pricing environment by honoring the premiums offered at the time that the land owner committed to a certification program. GRU will be responsible for the educational and other aspects of promoting participation in the program, and will provide the respondent with lists of program participants and the level of premium they are eligible for.