

## LAWPCA Approves State's First Anaerobic Digestion Sewage Facility

Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority  
PRESS RELEASE

Lewiston, ME, (September 8, 2010)—Board Chair Phil Nadeau reported that the L-A Water Pollution Control Authority Board voted this evening to approve moving forward with the design of a \$16 million dollar anaerobic digester at its sewage treatment facility which would begin construction in late 2011. This facility would be the first of its kind in Maine and could feature one of the few sewage treatment cogeneration plants in New England.

Nadeau stated that the two years it has taken to study and analyze project design and costs were well worth the time and believes that the project is well positioned from a construction and financing cost perspective. The project will be eligible for a state revolving loan fund which will "forgive" up to \$900,000 in loan principal. Additionally, both Nadeau and Superintendent Mac Richardson will be contacting state and federal officials regarding other opportunities for additional funding that may help support, in Nadeau's words, "a no-opposition, publicly embraced" alternative energy project that could produce up to 65% of the electricity needs for a facility that ranks in the top one percent of all electricity consuming operations in Maine.

LAWPCA was the first sewage treatment authority to be created in Maine. Nadeau believes that the L-A facility will once again take the state-wide lead in sewage treatment and usher in a new chapter for Maine with technology that will reduce bio-solids costs and provide an important alternative energy option that makes financial sense. "Anaerobic digestion is widely used in China and in the European Union and we had the good fortune of visiting some very well run AD operations in New Hampshire. We believe that AD has a place in L-A and in Maine."

According to Nadeau, "the Board was unanimous in its support for a project that is both good for the environment and addresses the state's desire to encourage the development of alternative energy solutions like wind mills. This project will help reduce our long term operational costs and has the potential to reduce our dependence on being connected to a grid that requires paying some of the highest electricity rates in the nation."