

Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 19, 2013

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~ MEDIA ADVISORY ~

52-Acre Harvest of Poplar Trees at Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission's Biocycle Farm

Harvest to begin week of August 19

The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) has entered into a contract with Lane Forest Products to harvest a 52-acre portion of the Biocycle Farm, a plantation of poplar trees owned by the MWMC.

The area to be harvested is a portion of Management Unit 1, and must be harvested by the fall of 2015. The unit covers 156 acres and includes approximately 38,000 poplar trees. Harvesting a portion of the unit will allow the MWMC to test the market for the product before proceeding with the remaining 104 acres.

What: 52-acre harvest of poplar trees

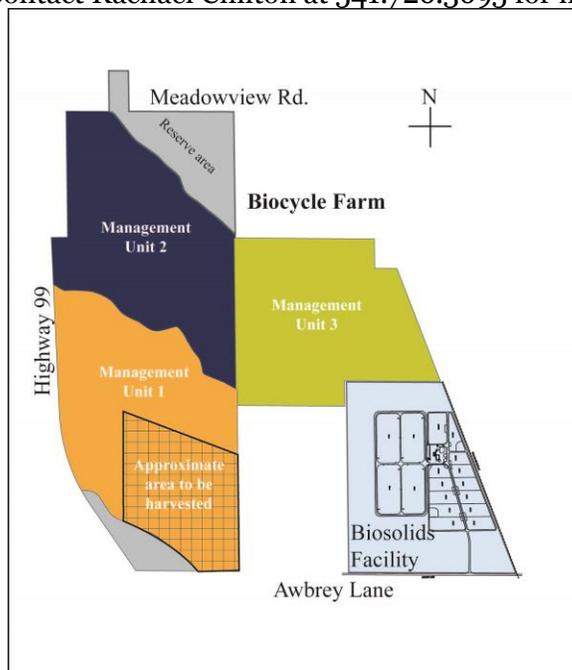
Where: Biocycle Farm, Highway 99 and Awbrey Lane, Eugene

When: Beginning week of August 19, 2013 and continuing through the fall

Time: On-site work hours 6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., harvest work is limited to 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Site access: for photo/video purposes will be coordinated for members of the media Wednesday, August 21 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. and Thursday, August 22 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Contact Rachael Chilton at 541.726.3695 for more information.

Map:



Background:

The Biocycle Farm is located on about 600 acres of agricultural land and includes nearly 400 acres of poplar trees, planted in three phases and managed as an agricultural crop. Biosolids, the solid by-product of the wastewater treatment process, are applied to Biocycle Farm as a soil amendment. To meet the requirements of an agricultural crop, the trees must be harvest every 12 years.

The MWMC is an intergovernmental agreement among Lane County and the Cities of Springfield and Eugene. The MWMC is responsible for providing wastewater management services to the Eugene/Springfield area.