

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

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## **Seminole adds more biomass to its renewable energy portfolio**

We are pleased to announce that SECO's not-for-profit energy supplier Seminole Electric Cooperative will add an additional 25 megawatts of biomass energy generated from sweet sorghum to its resource portfolio. This comes about as a result of a contract signed with Ft. Lauderdale-based Southeast Renewable Fuels (SRF).

As SECO CEO Jim Duncan pointed out, "Biomass is one of the truly practical renewable fuels we should be developing in Florida and Seminole is to be congratulated on this acquisition. It will have a positive impact on our environment."

Seminole's chief executive, Tim Woodbury, says the new contract reflects the cooperative's continued commitment to renewable resources and environmental stewardship.

"Biomass is clean, efficient, reliable, and renewable," Woodbury noted, "and it's price-competitive with traditional energy sources, an important factor in holding down the retail cost of electricity."

Southeast's chief executive, Aaron Pepper, said that SRF has taken a unique approach to Florida policy makers' calls for development of advanced energy concepts. Instead of relying on unproven technology that hasn't been scaled to production levels, SRF has modeled the facility after well-established processes successfully deployed in places such as Brazil.

"We are very pleased to be working with Seminole Electric and thankful to the State of Florida, Governor Crist, Commissioner Bronson, and the Florida Energy and Climate Commission for assisting in developing the State's first commercial Advanced Bio-Refinery," he added.

The facility is expected to go into commercial service sometime in late 2011. The new contract gives Seminole the option of purchasing the facility's output through November 30, 2036. The parties did not disclose contract terms.

The new facility is also expected to help Seminole meet forecasted growth in the demand for electricity in Florida. Seminole said it continues to work with its members to slow that growth through energy efficiency and conservation initiatives.

One megawatt of energy can meet the energy needs of about 600 average-size homes. In turn, this 25 megawatt biomass plant will meet the needs of approximately 15,000 homes.

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