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Development News from the REAL AZ Corridor

REAL Arizona News



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Resources | Energy | Access | Lifestyle

REAL Opportunity in Northeast Arizona ... Right NOW

Potash Projects Move Forward in Real AZ Corridor ...

The **Real AZ Corridor** is positioned to become a significant potash producing region, with multiple projects underway.



Prospect Global completed the second phase of drilling on 95,000 acres in the Holbrook Basin as part of its **American West Potash** project and has begun detailed project engineering. In October, the company announced that it was 'on track to meet key targets' with expenses, infrastructure and permitting. Prospect Global also announced a 10-year deal with **Sichuan Chemical Industry Holding Group Ltd. of China** that would provide at least 500,000 metric tons of potash annually to Sichuan -- or about one quarter of what Prospect hopes to mine from its AWP project.

Passport Potash has completed test drilling of 52 sites on 81,000 acres near Holbrook. Resource reports indicated widespread resource availability and mining potential at shallow depths and the company began a preliminary economic assessment (PEA). Passport signed a non-binding letter of intent with the Hopi Indian Tribe that will combine the Hopi and Passport lands in the PEA. The action sets the stage for potential joint exploration and development of the potash resources in the Holbrook Basin.

Passport also recently entered into an agreement to acquire 100% interest in its land holdings on the east side of the Holbrook Basin, as part of a settlement with North American Potash Developments Inc. and other parties.

[Read updates on these and other projects in the Real AZ Corridor HERE](#)

November 2012

Corridor Targets Job Growth In Emerging Sectors With ACA Grant Award

The **Real AZ Development Council (RADC)** has received a \$50,000 grant award from the **Arizona Department of Commerce (ACA)** for 'key sector marketing and job development'. The RADC will focus on facilitating job creation and industry growth in two key sectors: Potash Mining, Process and Distributing and Future Forest and Forest Management.

Three global potash companies currently have development projects underway in the **Real AZ Corridor**. Earlier this year, the **U.S. Forest Service** awarded the first contract of the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) to **Pioneer Forest Products**, which is expected to build a mill in Winslow as part of its 300,000-acre, 10-year contract.

RADC will work with **Lori Martinek** of **ED/c Partners** to develop industry profiles

Future Forest Industry Taking

Shape in Winslow ...

Earlier this year, **Pioneer Forest Products** was awarded a 10-year contract from the **U. S. Forest Service** (USFS) to perform restoration treatments on 300,000 acres of national forest lands as part of the **Four Forest Restoration Initiative** (4FRI).



Since that time, Pioneer has signed agreements to purchase more than 500 acres on the southwest side of Winslow to build a state-of-the-art mill and a timber processing facility for itself and its biomass partner, **Concord Blue USA**. The plant will be used to convert small diameter pine timber into high value finger-jointed material and to use a portion of the woody biomass to create bio-diesel fuel.

The parcel offers excellent access to Interstate 40 and the **Burlington Northern Santa Fe** rail line. Engineering for the facilities is now underway. Pioneer is also working to secure loggers and equipment operators who will carry out the specific operations designated by the USFS to restore 30,000 acres each year.

Key financial discussions are under way with several investment groups and Pioneer reports that it is on track to begin development of the Winslow site and forest operations in 2013.

and target marketing strategies for each sector. The 12-month ACA award also includes funding for outreach materials and strategy implementation.

Catalyst Closure UPDATE ...

Catalyst Paper Corp. closed its Snowflake paper mill in September, putting 308 employees out of work. The closure is part of the now resolved bankruptcy of the Richmond, British Columbia-based company, which has other, larger paper mills in Canada.

Catalyst sought bankruptcy protection under Chapter 15 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, which allows a foreign debtor access to U.S. Bankruptcy Courts. The company paid \$568,678 in taxes to Navajo County and other local taxing bodies in 2011.

Catalyst initiated a sale process in September for assets which include the equipment and other assets associated with the paper mill, approximately 19,000 acres of land and The Apache Railway Company. Qualified bidders had until November 1 to submit a non-binding indication of interest. Catalyst will assess the bids and an auction may follow should more than one qualified purchase bid or investment bid be submitted and verified.

The 100 people employed at the Snowflake Power biomass plant are still working, thanks to recent deals that separated the land under the power plant and equipment from the paper mill.

NPC Training Grant Will

Develop Skilled Workforce ...

Northland Pioneer College (NPC) has received a \$1.971 million grant award which it will use over three years to train workers at the college's new Skills Center in Holbrook.

The award is part of a \$13.47 million **Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training** award made by the U.S. Department of Labor to the Arizona Sun Corridor Get Into Energy Consortium to strengthen and broaden the talent pipeline for the energy and mining industries in Arizona. The consortium includes five Arizona community colleges.



NPC broke ground for its new Skills Center in October.

NPC will hire grant-funded faculty in power plant operations

and industrial technology who will partner with skills and career development staff to produce work-ready program graduates. The program will be implemented at the new Skills Center at the NPC Painted Desert Campus in Holbrook, which will provide state-of-the-art training facilities for welding, construction trades and industrial maintenance and operations programs.

The center will also have the potential to prepare workers for high-paying jobs in the region's emerging potash mining industry, according to NPC President Dr. Jeanne Swarthout.

Northland Pioneer College serves the residents of Navajo and Apache counties through four regional campuses and five centers. Call **(800) 266-7845** for more information on NPC programs, or visit www.npc.edu.

Photo above, from left: Navajo Co. Board of Supervisors Chair J.R. DeSpain, Governing Board Chair Bill Jeffers, NPC President Dr. Jeanne Swarthout, NAVIT Principal Lisa Aragon, NPC mascot Ernie the Eagle, Board Secretary Ginny Handorf, NPC welding teacher Randy Hoskins.

Innovative Process Converts

Waste to Energy ...

The **Real AZ Corridor** has become a proving ground for technology being developed by the **National Defense Center for Energy and Environment (NDCEE)** that utilizes mobile incinerators to convert waste to usable energy.

Waste to energy and mobile incinerator demonstrations and testing were held by process developer Concurrent Technologies at **Larson Waste** in Snowflake earlier this year. The tests will enable the **Department of Defense** to determine whether incinerators are a safe and viable option for reducing non-hazardous solid waste that is generated in field operations.



Waste to energy converter

The technology caught the interest of Larson Waste owner **Nolan Larson**, who has been looking for ways to produce energy from the tons of waste that his company collects every year. "The future for alternative energy technology like this would be enormous," he noted.

The **Real AZ Corridor** is already known for innovative, diversified energy production which includes wind, biomass, solar, geothermal technology and algae-based biofuels, and is supported by modern, coal-fired power plants and energy distribution grids run by Arizona's largest utility companies.

"Both NDCEE and the developer were very impressed with our facility and this region," said Larson, an RADC member. "Naturally, we encouraged the developers to build the units here, if they are approved."

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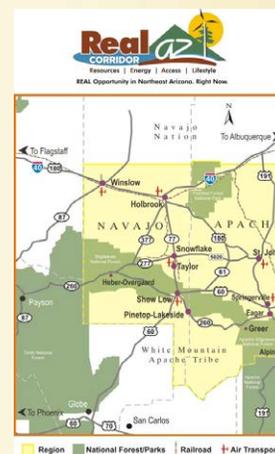
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"The Corridor is an ideal location for manufacturing due to its abundant land and water resources, its ready workforce and its rail and interstate access," he noted. "This region has Arizona's best access to an interstate east-west highway and is less than half a day from the Mexico and California markets and ports."

Larson is also involved with a small local 'think tank' that is working to develop a similar waste to energy process. Read more about the project on the **Real AZ Corridor** website [HERE](#).

About the Real AZ Corridor

The **Real AZ Corridor** spans two counties and includes nine communities in northeastern Arizona. It stretches over a 110-mile wide area that runs from Winslow and Holbrook in Navajo County to Eagar and Springerville in Apache County and includes the non-Reservation areas located south of Interstate 40.

The **Real AZ Corridor** is a region offering abundant water resources, renewable energy assets (wind, biomass, solar, geothermal), an emerging future forest industry and exceptional opportunities in sectors including potash mining and processing; diversified energy production and storage; carbon offset credits; algae and biosciences; and tourism, entrepreneurship and technology. Opportunity is everywhere that you look. Learn more:

Real AZ Development Council

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