

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Anzelc and others

Subject: Solid waste

Analyst: Bob Eleff, 651-296-8961

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Overview

House File 607 appropriates \$400,000 from the general fund for a feasibility study for a \$30 million plasma torch gasification facility to be located in International Falls. This new technology gasifies solid waste at a temperature of 20,000 degrees Fahrenheit in an oxygen-starved environment, reducing organic materials to hydrogen and carbon monoxide, and inorganic materials to a molten slag. The products remaining from this process have potential value: the gases could be used to produce biofuels or a propane-like gas; the large amounts of steam produced could generate electricity; the slag could be processed into road aggregate or construction materials.

The project, known as RECAP (Renewable Energy Clean Air Project), received \$2.5 million in bonding authority during the 2006 legislative session, contingent on equal financial commitments from non-state sources.

Section

- 1 Appropriation.** Appropriates \$400,000 in FY 2008 from the general fund to the Pollution Control Agency for a grant to Koochiching County to study the feasibility of constructing a plasma torch gasification facility to process municipal solid waste.