

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Evaluation of Pinnacle
Renewable Energy Inc
(Armstrong Division)
Compliance with the SBP
Framework: Public Summary
Report

www.sbp-cert.org



Completed in accordance with the CB Public Summary Report Template Version 1.0

For further information on the SBP Framework and to view the full set of documentation see www.sbp-cert.org

Document history

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1 Overview

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Report completion date: 18/Dec/2017

Report authors: Cheryl Woode, Shawn Ellsworth

Certificate Holder: Pinnacle Renewable Energy Inc. – Armstrong

PO Box 280, 3480 Pleasant Valley Road, Armstrong, British Columbia, V0E

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Producer contact for SBP: Joseph Aquino

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(250) 562-5562 Ext.2220

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Certified Supply Base: Currently not applicable for Armstrong supply base area

SBP Certificate Code: SBP-03-14

Date of certificate issue: 18/Dec/2017

Date of certificate expiry: 17/Dec/2022

Indicate where the current audit fits within the certification cycle				ile
Main (Initial) Audit	First Surveillance Audit	Second Surveillance Audit	Third Surveillance Audit	Fourth Surveillance Audit
⊻ *				

^{*}Follow-up Assessment



2 Scope of the evaluation and SBP certificate

Scope of the Evaluation: The initial evaluation was to assess the Biomass Producer's conformance to SBP Standards 2, 4, and 5 and the respective Instruction Notes and Documents. The evaluation included an onsite visit to the pellet mill in Armstrong, British Columbia, Canada, field visit with suppliers and a port visit to Vancouver, British Columbia.

Pinnacle Renewable Energy Inc. has been working on a Supply Base Evaluation (SBE) to increase their ability to supply SBP Compliant fibre; however, the SBE has not yet been fully developed. Therefore, a Supply Base Evaluation is not included in the scope of the initial evaluation.

Certification scope: production of wood pellets, for use in energy production, at Pinnacle Renewable Energy Inc.'s – Armstrong pellet mill and transport to Westview Wood Pellet Terminal or Fiberco Export Inc. for storage, aggregation, vessel loading and shipping. The scope of the certificate excludes a Supply Base Evaluation/Energy and Carbon Balance Calculation.

SBP certificate: SBP-03-14



3 Specific objective

The primary objectives of the assessment were:

- Collecting assessment information through documents, interviews and on-site observations with the biomass producer staff and suppliers;
- Confirming that information and comparing it to the Sustainable Biomass Partnership (SBP) Standards 2,4,5, (V1.0) (the "Standards"), the Client's documented processes and public documents, and PwC's requirements (the "Requirements");
- · Generating assessment findings; and
- Preparing the Assessment report and SBP Public Summary.



4 SBP Standards utilised

4.1 SBP Standards utilised

The following SBP Standards were utilized:

- Standard 2: Verification of SBP Compliant Feedstock. Version 1.0. 26 March 2015
- Standard 4: Chain of Custody. Version 1.0. 26 March 2015
- Standard 5: Collection and Communication of Data. Version 1.0. 26 March 2015

The above Standards can be accessed or requested from SBP at the following website: https://sbp-cert.org/

4.2 SBP-endorsed Regional Risk Assessment

Not applicable - No SBP endorsed Regional Risk Assessment was used for this assessment.



5 Description of Biomass Producer, Supply Base and Forest Management

5.1 Description of Biomass Producer

Pinnacle Renewable Energy Inc. (Pinnacle) is the longest-established wood pellet producer in Western Canada founded in the community of Quesnel, British Columbia, Canada more than 25 years ago.

Today, Pinnacle owns and operates seven pellet plants, one deep-water port and leases space at another port all in the Canadian province of British Columbia. Collectively the pellet plants produce more than one and a half million tonnes annually. All Pinnacle plants operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The pellet plants are located in the B.C communities of Houston, Burns Lake, Meadowbank, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Armstrong and Lavington. In total, more than 250 people are employed by Pinnacle in those communities. In addition to the production facilities, Pinnacle operates Westview Wood Pellet Terminal ("Westview"), a port in Prince Rupert, B.C. where pellets produced from the northern plants are transported to Westview. Pinnacle also leases space at Fiberco Export Inc. ("Fiberco"), a deep water port in Vancouver, B.C. where pellets produced at the southern plants are transported to Fiberco.

The Armstrong wood pellet production facility ("Armstrong") is located in Armstrong, BC. The Armstrong facility has a production capacity of 70,000 metric tons of pellets per year. Pellets produced at this plant are transported by rail to Fiberco Export Inc. in Vancouver, BC for export to European utilities.

5.2 Description of Biomass Producer's Supply Base

All fibre supplied to Pinnacle Renewable Energy Inc. originates in the Province of British Columbia (BC), Canada, excluding Vancouver Islands. BC's land base is 95 million hectares of which 62% or (55 million hectares) is forested, but only 24% of the forest is available for harvest. Approximately 83% of BC's forests are coniferous leading, 6% are mixed forests containing both coniferous and deciduous species, and 6% are deciduous leading. Six million hectares (approximately15%) of BC's forests are in protected areas and 13% of all forests in protected areas are 141-250 years old. BC is Canada's most ecologically diverse province containing temperate rainforests, dry pine forests, alpine meadows, and other forested ecosystems.

95% of BC's forests are a government/publically owned resource. As such, BC is a global leader in terms of forest legislation and certification. Approximately 52 million hectares of forest in BC is covered by third-party certification (e.g. SFI, FSC, and CSA) or meets specific criteria required in environmental management systems (e.g. ISO 14001). Approximately 95% of the fibre procured by PREI is forest management certified.

Armstrong procures all of their feedstock from secondary sources. Pinnacle's internal fiber procurement group is responsible for implementing and maintaining conformance to the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFCTM) CoC Standard, which operates as the platform to the Sustainable Biomass Partnership Standards. Secondary feedstock is sourced through their PEFC Due Diligence system from a variety of sawmill suppliers. Sawmills source high-quality logs from the forest and mill them into products like two-by-fours. Armstrong procures the sawdust and shavings generated by these sawmills.

Additional detail is provided in Armstrong Supply Base Report (SBR), which can be found on Pinnacle's website at the following address: www.pinnaclepellet.com.



5.3 Detailed description of Supply Base

The total Supply Base area for the entire Province is 55 million hectares of forestland. 83% of BC's forests are coniferous leading, 6% are mixed forests containing both coniferous and deciduous species, and 6% are deciduous leading.

The total annual volume of primary feedstock is 0% of the total.

The total annual volume of secondary feedstock procured by Armstrong is approximately 67,346 oven dried tonnes. Approximately 88% of the secondary feedstock is certified to a SBP-approved CoC Scheme.

The total annual volume of tertiary feedstock is 0% of the total.

A quantitative description of the Supply Base can be found in Armstrong's Supply Base Report.

5.4 Chain of Custody system

Pinnacle has a management system and documented procedures that are fully capable of determining feedstock compliance. Pinnacle is utilizing the Program for the Endorsement of Certification Chain of Custody system already in place to track SBP-compliant feedstock and SBP controlled feedstock. All wood fiber is tracked through the process from the District of Origin through the mill to the final bill of sale.

Pinnacle uses a database to gather and control information related to the feedstock such as supplier name, scale tickets, fibre type, certification, and district of origin. Pinnacle has appropriate control mechanisms to calculate output volumes, claims and trademark/logo approval. Additionally, Pinnacle conducts an annual Management Review of the commitments, programs and procedures to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the SBP management system.



6 Evaluation process

6.1 Timing of evaluation activities

Evaluation Activity	Date / Location	Persons Involved	Approx. Duration
Pre- Assessment / Document Review	November 9-10, 2015. PwC office.	Cheryl Woode, PwC SBP Team Leader Shawn Ellsworth, PwC SBP Team Assessor Joe Aquino, Superintendent of Forest Biomass, Pinnacle Cindy Bunker, Sales/Logistics Coordinator, Pinnacle Nate Ryant, NMR Resources Management Bernard Tobin, GM Fiber Supply, Pinnacle	6 hours
PwC Stakeholder Consultation	December 18, 2015 – January 18, 2015. PwC office.	Bruce Eaket, PwC SBP Lead Auditor Cheryl Woode, PwC SBP Team Leader	2 hours
Initial Assessment	January 12, 2016. On-site at Armstrong and surrounding area.	Cheryl Woode, PwC SBP Team Leader Joe Aquino, Superintendent of Forest Biomass, Pinnacle Jamie Colliss, Plant Manager, Pinnacle Christine Doyle, Plant Accountant, Pinnacle	6 hours
	February 9, 2016. On-site at Fiberco Export Inc.	Cheryl Woode, PwC SBP Team Leader Joe Aquino, Superintendent of Forest Biomass, Pinnacle Eugene Lupynis, Director of Logistics, Pinnacle Ray Louie, Assistant Fiber Manager, Fiberco.	4 hours
Follow-up Assessment	February 8, 2017. Phone interview with Fiberco Export Inc.	Cheryl Woode, PwC SBP Team Leader Shawn Ellsworth, PwC SBP Team Assessor Eugene Lupynis, Director of Logistics, Pinnacle (Phone) Ray Louie, Assistant Fiber Manager, Fiberco. (Phone) Ana Dahlin, ASI Witness Assessor Maris Zudrags, ASI Witness Assessor	1hr.
Follow-up Assessment	February 23, 2017. On-site at Armstong and surrounding area.	Cheryl Woode, PwC SBP Team Leader Joe Aquino, Superintendent of Forest Biomass, Pinnacle Pete Swan, Maintenance Supervisor, Pinnacle Christine Doyle, Plant Accountant, Pinnacle Bruce Allison, General Manager, Winfield Wood & Lath	6hrs
Audit Closure and PwC Certification Decision	May 9-12, 2017 and December 18, 2017 at the PwC office.	James Lucas, Peer Reviewer, PwC SBP Lead Auditor Mike Harris, PwC Certification Decision Maker	4 hours



6.2 Description of evaluation activities

PwC completed the initial SBP assessment in six phases, with the most significant phase being the on-site initial and follow-up assessments.

Pre-Assessment / Document Review (DRR):

The purpose of the DRR Assessment was to evaluate if the requirements of the Standards had been met, in particular those requirements that must be documented. In addition, PwC evaluated the Chain of Custody process/management system to ensure that it had been through a complete Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle; including internal audit and management review or that these activities have been scheduled to occur prior to the Initial Assessment. In addition, Pinnacle is certified to the PEFC CoC Standard. Time during this phase of the assessment was focused on reviewing the SBP requirements that are unique from the other standards, such as Greenhouse Gas (GHG) data and collection.

PwC Stakeholder Consultation:

PwC launched our stakeholder consultation on December 18, 2015 – January 18, 2015 prior to the completion of the implementation and follow-up assessments. PwC used the stakeholder list that Pinnacle used in its consultation. Stakeholders were invited via email to comment on the Supply Base Evaluation process. PwC did not receive comments from the stakeholders.

Initial Assessment:

PwC conducted the Initial Assessment on-site at Armstrong through observations, reviewing records and conducting interviews with staff and management. A thorough review of the CoC processes, GHG data and collection, and fiber input and output were conducted. Critical control points such as the weigh station, quality testing lab, control room, and rail loadout were included in the Assessment. PwC also interviewed a sample of secondary suppliers for verifying the location of the fibre and their sustainable forest management practices.

Additionally, PwC conducted a site visit to Fiberco Export Inc.. Pellets produced at Armstrong are transported by rail to Fiberco Export Inc. port facility in Vancouver, BC for storage, handling and export to customers. A thorough review of the CoC processes, GHG data and collection, and storage and handling of the pellets was conducted.

Follow up Assessment and Supplier Interviews:

Due to timeliness of reporting and audit completion, a follow-up site visit to Armstrong was required by SBP before the Implementation Assessment to the SBP Standards could be completed. This follow up work was completed in February, 2017 and built on earlier site visits by PwC during the initial assessment work. PwC also interviewed a sample of secondary suppliers to verify their fiber supply area and the sustainable forest management practices being implemented.

Additionally, PwC conducted a follow-up interview with Fiberco Export Inc. to review the CoC processes, GHG data and collection, and storage and handling of the pellets.

Audit Closure and PwC Certification Decision:

PwC provided the draft Non-conformities and Opportunities for Improvement to Pinnacle at the closing meeting of the Initial and Follow-up Assessments. Pinnacle responded with their Root Cause Analysis/action plans for the findings and if appropriate, provided PwC with revised management system procedures and templates, forms, etc. Once the Lead Auditor accepted the changes and closed the audit findings, the PwC Lead Auditor's

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working papers including protocols/checklists and evidence of conformance was reviewed by a peer Lead Auditor. The complete file was then reviewed by the PwC Practice Leader who made the final PwC certification decision.

6.3 Process for consultation with stakeholders

The SBE was provided to various stakeholders across the Province to engage in stakeholder consultation of Pinnacle's supply base area. Given the geographic spread of Pinnacle's supply base, the strategy used to reach a wide array of stakeholders was to engage existing Public Advisory Groups (PAG) in areas where the biomass producing facilities are located. PAG's consist of members representing the public, government, industry, First Nations, private land, small tenures and other stakeholders interested in forest management topics. Pinnacle's head office is located in Prince George, BC which is centrally located in the supply base area. Given the vicinity and local presence, a Pinnacle representative made an in-person presentation to the Prince George PAG as a means of distributing the SBE and to provide insight on the certification scheme. The SBE was electronically provided to the PAG's and the members were given opportunity to review and comment on the locally applicable verifiers. In total, Pinnacle reached out to five PAG's representing the seven regions where Pinnacle obtains feedstock.

The PAG groups engaged by Pinnacle include:

- 1. Okanagan PAG Armstrong and Lavington Supply Area
- 2. Cariboo PAG Williams Lake and Quesnel Supply Area
- 3. Prince George PAG Meadowbank Supply Area and Head Office
- 4. Burns Lake PAG Burns Lake Supply Area
- 5. Morice PAG Houston Supply Area

PwC conducted its 30-day stakeholder consultation from December 18, 2015 – January 18, 2016 prior to the completion of the implementation assessment. PwC used the stakeholder list that Pinnacle used in its first consultation and stakeholders were informed of the consultation via email. The list included five PAG's representing the seven regions where Pinnacle obtains feedstock. Each PAG includes members representing the public, government, industry, First Nations, private land, small tenures and other stakeholders interested in forest management topics. Stakeholders were invited to comment on the Supply Base Evaluation process. The results of the stakeholder consultation is described in section 7.5 below.



7 Results

7.1 Main strengths and weaknesses

This summary of strengths and weaknesses should be read in conjunction with the summary of the Initial Assessment findings in Section 10 of this Public Summary. The strength of Pinnacle's SBP program is their integration of the SBP requirements with their existing fiber procurement management system and procedures designed to meet the rigorous requirements of the applicable B.C. laws and B.C. regulations in the Supply Base Area (SBA) in conjunction with the requirements of the PEFCTM International Standard – Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products – Requirements (PEFC ST 2002:2013). As a result of operating in a Province that has a well-established forest products industry and existing laws and regulations that align with the majority of the SBP indicators and the commitment to other voluntary standards. Pinnacle's staff which include registered professional foresters who have a strong knowledge of the B.C. forestry industry practices as well as a good working relationship with their suppliers.

Pinnacle has documented procedures to address risks identified in their supply base evaluation; however, PwC noted several Non-conformities which are discussed in section 10 of this report.

PwC has concluded that Armstrong has the organizational capability to systematically meet the performance objectives and the requirements of the SBP Standards based on the elements of the SBP Standards that were tested, with the exception of Nonconformities that were identified which have since been addressed by Pinnacle and closed by the Lead Auditor.

7.2 Rigour of Supply Base Evaluation

Not Applicable

7.3 Compilation of data on Greenhouse Gas emissions

During the initial and follow-up assessments PwC:

- Confirmed the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) sources for feedstock input from the forest, production at the facility, transportation to the port and storage and handling at the port;
- · Reviewed how the input data was measured;
- Conducted interviews with operations personnel on the overview of the operations at the facility, historical operations, changes to operations, procedures and processes used to maintain the facility, and procedures and processes used to ensure data quality;
- Where appropriate, we obtained a sample of records to support the evidence provided in these interviews;
- Reviewed procedures and records on how and when emissions were calculated; and
- Inquired about controls on data collection and records.

PwC concluded that Armstrong has the competency to analyse and report the required data on Greenhouse Gas emissions.



7.4 Competency of involved personnel

Pinnacle's fiber procurement team are registered professional foresters with local forestry experience and knowledge of ecological and social values associated with the supply base, applicable laws and regulations, business management practices, operation of suppliers, and the local forest resource.

Pinnacle assigned management with appropriate skills and competency to implement and execute the management and control systems relating to SBP compliance. Management interviewed during the assessment were found to be knowledgeable of the SBP requirements.

7.5 Stakeholder feedback

As discussed in Section 6.3 of this Public Summary report, Pinnacle received one comment by an individual from the Morice PAG to provide clarity on the SBE and the SBP certification scheme. Pinnacle scheduled an in-person presentation at the next PAG meeting held in June 2016. PwC did not receive feedback as a result of our stakeholder consultation processes.

7.6 Preconditions

PwC issued seven preconditions to Pinnacle during this main evaluation. As discussed in Section 10 of this Public Summary, there were seven non-conformities that had to be closed before a final report and certificate could be issued.



8 Review of Biomass Producer's Risk Assessments

Not Applicable.



9 Review of Biomass Producer's mitigation measures

A Supply Base Evaluation is not included in the scope of the evaluation.



10 Non-conformities and observations

All nonconformities (minor and major) must be closed before completing the reporting process.

Pinncle was allowed sixty (60) days from the closing meeting date to address the major and minor nonconformities raised during the implementation assessment. Pinnacle provided a root cause analysis for each nonconformity indicating the cause of the system or process failure and provided sufficient evidence to PwC indicating how the nonconformity has been corrected prior to completion of the Certification Assessment.

The details of the Non-conformities raised during the evaluation are provided in the tables below:

• Nonconformities

PwC Reference Number	SBP Requirement	Finding Details	Status
IA-NC-01- MAJOR nonconformity	SBP Standard 5 (V1.0) @ 5.1 requires that all data submissions been supported by appropriate evidence for enabling energy and carbon balance calculations.	Pinnacle uses a spreadsheet to report the energy and carbon balance on an annual basis. PwC reviewed the spreadsheet for completeness and accuracy. At the time of the on-site audit, it was found that the following data categories were not on the Armstrong spreadsheet; therefore, the BP is not reporting on all SBP data categories.	CLOSED
		4.3 average moisture content at the exit of the dryer	
		4.4 average moisture content of wood biomass produced	
		4.7 total annual amount of propane used for production	
		5.1 Transport	
		5.2 Wood Biomass storage, handling and trans- shipment	
		Pinnacle was given 60 days from February 2, 2016 to resolve the issue and has subsequently provided PwC with an acceptable action plan and evidence of implementation. PwC has reviewed the updated GHG spreadsheet and verified that all the required data for standard 5A exists.	
IA-NC-02- MAJOR nonconformity	SBP Standard 5 (V1.0) @ 8.2 requires that the SBR meets the requirements for this report as set out in SBP Standard #2 @ 7.3	The Supply Base Reports was written using a dated template version (version 1 February 2016) but there is a more recent version available on the SBP website Version 1.2 - June 2016. The new version has additional requirements (e.g. Section 2.1 requires an overview of the proportions of SBP feedstock product groups (Controlled Feedstock, SBP-compliant Primary Feedstock, SBP-compliant Secondary Feedstock, SBP-compliant Tertiary Feedstock, SBP non-compliant Feedstock).	CLOSED
		In addition, the data used in the report is more than one year old and is therefore considered dated where it is from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.	

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		Pinnacle was given 60 days from March 3, 2017 to resolve the issue and has subsequently provided PwC with an acceptable action plan and evidence of	
		implementation. PwC has reviewed the updated SBR for each facility and verified that the update was made to Version 1.2 - June 2016.	
IA-NC-03- MAJOR nonconformity	the Supply Base (SB) for all feedstock received which is used in the production of SBP-compliant	During a supplier interview it was found that the supplier does receive some raw fibre sources form outside the Supply Base Area of B.C. and that the secondary feedstock they provide to Lavington would likely have some fibre from areas outside the defined supply base, such as the Pacific North-west of the US and Alberta. Pinnacle was given 60 days from April 10, 2017 to	CLOSED
	biomass.	resolve the issue and has subsequently provided PwC with an acceptable action plan and evidence of implementation. PwC has reviewed the claim statement and verified that Pinnacle has procedures in place to categorize feedstock with PEFC-controlled sources claims as SBP controlled.	
IA-NC-04- MAJOR nonconformity	SBP Standard 4 (V1.0) @ 1.2 requires that the BP has an SBP Trademark	During the assessment, it was found that Pinnacle uses the SBP trademarks on their website, "Sustainable Biomass Partnership" without a valid SBP Trademark License Agreement.	CLOSED
	Licence Agreement.	Pinnacle was given 60 days from March 3, 2017 to resolve the issue and has subsequently provided PwC with an acceptable action plan and evidence of implementation. PwC reviewed the license agreement and verified that both parties have signed it.	
IA-NC-05- MAJOR nonconformity	SBP Standard 5 (V1.0) @ 6.4 requires that the organization follow the mechanism for recording data in the SBP database of GHG and profiling data as defined in the SBP Instruction Document 5A: Collection and Communication of Data.	During the assessment, it was found that Pinnacle had inaccurate data in the GHG spreadsheets for Lavington, Houston, Burns Lake and Meadowbank. Pinnacle was given 60 days from March 3, 2017 to resolve the issue and has subsequently provided PwC with an acceptable action plan and evidence of implementation. PwC has reviewed the data in the GHG spreadsheets and verified the missing data has been included.	CLOSED
IA-NC-06- MAJOR nonconformity	SBP Instruction Document 5A (V1.1) @ 2.1.5, SBP Instruction Document 5B (V1.1) @ 2.1.3 requires that the Legal Owners shall make data available using the templates specified in these Instruction Document and SBP Instruction	Pinnacle has not made data available using the Audit Report on Energy and GHG data (SAR), Audit Report on Energy and GHG data for Supplied Biomass (SREG) templates or the Static Biomass Profiling Data. Pinnacle was given 60 days from March 3, 2017 to resolve the issue and has subsequently provided PwC with an acceptable action plan and evidence of implementation. PwC has reviewed each SAR for completeness.	CLOSED



Document 5C (V1.1)	
@ 2.1.3 requires that	
the BP shall make	
data specified in this	
Instruction Document	
available in an	
appropriate form and	
format to customers	
and End-Users of	
Biomass supplied by	
the Legal Owner	
and Legal Owner	

• Opportunities for Improvement

No new opportunities for improvement were identified during the initial and follow-up assessments.



11 Certification decision

PwC has concluded that Armstrong has the organizational capability to systematically meet the performance objectives and the requirements of the Standards based on the evaluation process described in Section 6 of this Public Summary. PwC's Practice Leader recommends certification of Pinnacle Armstrong as of December 18, 2017.