

**FINAL DECISION  
GRANTING AN APPLICATION FOR A  
NON-WASTE DETERMINATION REGARDING  
UPM BLANDIN AND ALLETE/MINNESOTA POWER'S  
FIBER CORE MATERIALS**

This is the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) final decision granting a September 27, 2017 application<sup>1</sup> submitted jointly by UPM Blandin and Allete/Minnesota Power's (Blandin or Company's) for a non-waste determination under the RCRA Non-Hazardous Secondary Materials Rule (Rule) found at 40 C.F.R. § 241.3(c), with regard to the fiber core material from two manufacturers (Corenso and Sonoco) that it burns as fuel in the boiler at its Grand Rapids, Minnesota power plant to produce electricity. EPA's final decision is based upon the information contained in the Administrative Record for this matter, including, but not limited to EPA's Technical Document that contains the evaluation of the Company's information in support of its application. EPA's Technical Document discussed the relevant information that establishes that Blandin's fiber core material from two manufacturers (Corenso and Sonoco) had not been *discarded in the first instance*; meets the three legitimacy criteria listed at 40 C.F.R. § 241.3(d)(1) and; meets the five relevant criteria found in 40 CFR § 241.3(c)(1)(i)-(v), and, therefore, meets the Rule's requirements. EPA held a 30-day comment period from March 11, 2019 to April 11, 2019 on the tentative decision in this matter before making this final decision. EPA did not receive any comments. In accordance with the Rule, the effective date of this final decision is September 27, 2017, the date of the original petition submitted jointly by UPM Blandin and Allete/Minnesota Power.

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Cathy Stepp  
Regional Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency

5/21/19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

<sup>1</sup> The terms *petition* and *application* are both used in 40 C.F.R. § 241.3 to indicate the document that is submitted to EPA by an entity seeking EPA's non-waste determination for NHSM that is combusted.