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Pacificorp to buy natural gas-fired generator in Chehalis

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHEHALIS, Wash. -- Pacificorp of Portland, Ore., is buying the natural gas-fired generating plant in Chehalis.

Pacificorp spokesman Tom Gauntt says the deal with Chehalis Power, part of the Belgian utility conglomerate Suez-Tractebel, is subject to state and federal regulators.

The agreement was announced late Friday. Gauntt won't reveal the price.

He says PacifiCorp, a subsidiary of MidAmerica Energy Holdings Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa, plans to keep the current work force.

The 520-megawatt plant was opened in 2003 and needs fewer than 20 people to operate.

A battle over property taxes ended this year when the state Board of Tax Appeals set the assessed value at \$221 million. In 2003 Chehalis Power contended the plant was worth \$75 million.

Information from: The Chronicle, <http://www.chronline.com>