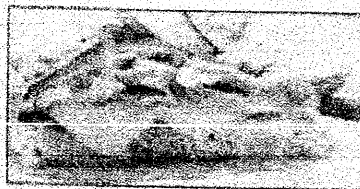


Garcia, Leishman
share early lead
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Grilled
cheese goes
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GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE

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Oneidas reaffirm alt-energy support

Board still stands
behind Green Bay
gasification plant

By Scott Cooper Williams
Press-Gazette Media

ONEIDA — Leaders of the Oneida Tribe of Indians are standing behind a tribal company's controversial efforts to build a waste-to-energy plant in Green Bay.

But members of the tribe's governing body, the Oneida Business Committee, are not divulging whether they also support continuing a court fight over the project.

Representatives of Oneida Seven Generations Corp. met with tribal leaders Thursday for more than an hour, amid growing signs that the company is losing support among its own people.

Tribal Chairman Ed Delgado, in particular, has voiced concerns about the waste-to-energy initiative and, with regard to the lawsuit, has said he wants to "stop the spending."

After Thursday's closed-door meeting with company officials, however, Delgado joined other tribal leaders in a public show of solidarity with Oneida Seven Generations.

Delgado and other board members later declined to comment.

Before the vote, Oneida Seven Generations board member Paul Linzmeyer told reporters he was unsure if the company still had tribal leaders' support in pursuing the Green Bay development.

"All we're trying to do," he said of the meeting, "is work through a lot of different issues together."

The governing board voted unanimously to reaffirm its support of a resolution backing the Green Bay project. The resolution states that the proposed facility would not use "any type of incineration or burning" and "will not have smokestacks."

The gasification plant would process tons of household trash at high temperatures in a way that leaves only charred waste, easing the need for landfill dumping while also creating a new source of electrical energy.

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Green Bay city officials withdrew a permit for the project at 1230 Hurlbut St. after determining that Oneida Seven Generations had misled the city about emissions and other aspects of the facility.

After a judge ruled in the city's favor in a resulting lawsuit, the development firm announced its plans to appeal.

Delgado moved to reconsider the company's legal fees Thursday, but the governing board would not disclose its decision on the issue.

While waging the court fight, Oneida Seven Generations also has sought to locate a similar gasification plant on

tribal land west of Green Bay.

Tribal members opposed to the project have circulated a petition for a General Tribal Council — similar to a public referendum — on the issue.

That gathering is scheduled for May 5.

Leah Dodge, a leader of the petition drive, said Thursday's action by the Oneida Business Committee signals the importance of a referendum that stops the gasification concept from going forward.

"Now the General Tribal Council will have to step up to do the job to protect the Oneida Tribe, which the Business Committee abdicated," Dodge said.

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