

EXPECTATIONS EXCEEDED FOR BIO-FUEL PRODUCTION AT PORT-CARTIER

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The first two weeks of the resumption of activities at the Bioénergie AE Côte-Nord plant in Port-Cartier resulted in biofuel production levels that exceeded expectations.

After a two-and-a-half-year hiatus, Bioénergie AE Côte-Nord restarted production from on June 27, and no one expected to produce so many liters of biofuel from wood residues at the Arbec plant.

"In two weeks, we made 700,000 [litres of biofuel] versus 4 million total at the start of production approximately three years ago, so we are very enthusiastic, very encouraged by the changes that have been made", Tony Chabot (Vice -President of operations, Côte-Nord region) proudly stated.

This increase in biofuel production sold at the neighboring ArcelorMittal plant is explained by the operational improvements made in the last year.

This optimization work has reduced the frequency of downtime that caused production stoppages, thereby increasing the plant's operational efficiency rate.

"The changes made by the various engineering teams have really paid off. For example, in the past, we had an average rate of 60% of the production capacity. Over the latest two weeks of operation, we had an average of 85%," said Tony Chabot.

Temporary halt at the plant

After two weeks of conclusive testing, the company, which is hiring 32 full-time employees, put production on hold this week and will resume on August 15.

This resumption of production is ensured by a long-term partnership between Bioénergie AE Côte-Nord and ArcelorMittal.

“We stopped on Tuesday because our tanks have a storage capacity of around 700,000 liters [of biofuel]. Our tanks are full. Why? It's that the plant operated better than we had hoped for. We already knew that we would have to stop during the summer period to allow ArcelorMittal to gradually increase [its] capacity to consume biofuel. The break is going to be a little longer than anticipated, given that the production was much larger than expected”, detailed Tony Chabot.

The mayor of Port-Cartier is delighted with this news.

“We see a lot of people who had gone elsewhere and who have come back. More resumes and applications were received than expected. For Port-Cartier, this is excellent news,” said Alain Thibault.