Project Title: **Improving the Efficiency of Planting, Tending and Harvesting Farm Grown Trees for Energy**

Contract Number: RD-50  Milestone Number: 21  Report Date: November 9, 2010

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Congressional District: 3 (Corporate office: Rogers, MN)
Congressional District: 7 (Project Farm location: Graceville, MN)
Congressional District: 6 (Equipment Building Location: Big Lake, MN)

**MILESTONE 21 - SUMMARY REPORT**

**Annual Land Rental**

**Executive Summary:** Rent for all of the parcels of land that contain the research sites was paid prior to the 2010 growing season. The sites include an 80-acre site (two 40 acre parcels) near Graceville, Minnesota planted with hybrid poplar in 2007, a 10-acre parcel near Dumont, Minnesota to be used for establishing a hybrid poplar production trial started in May 2008, and a 5-acre parcel near Dumont, Minnesota to be used for establishing a poplar clone comparisons trial in May, 2008. The 80 acre site has a pH that is predominately less than 7.5, which is well suited for growing trees, has areas where salt levels are elevated. The 10-acre parcel contains soils typical for the cropland in the surrounding area. The 5-acre parcel includes both well-drained and poorly drained soils and provides an excellent opportunity for the comparison of the performance of poplars across varied soil conditions. The parcels were selected to provide a comparative analysis of the performance of hybrid poplar to conventional crops.

**Technical Summary:** Annual land rent payments for 2010 were paid in April to landowners of two parcels totaling 15 acres near Dumont, MN and to the landowner of the parcels totaling 80 acres near Graceville, MN. The sites near Dumont include a clonal trial and a production trial that have both finished their third year of growth. The two parcels near Graceville contain trees finishing their 4th year of growth.

**Additional Milestone:** Milestone 23, “Annual Tending and Monitoring of Trees” has been completed and submitted for payment.
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