Executive Summary: Rent for all of the parcels of land that contain the research sites was paid prior to the 2009 growing season. The sites include an 80-acre parcel 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 parcel and has a pH that is predominately less than 7.5, which is well suited for growing trees, but appears to have a few isolated spots where salt levels may be 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 will provide 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 2009 were made on March 6, 2009 to landowners of two parcels totaling 15 acres near Dumont, MM 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 are both beginning their second year of growth. The two parcels near Graceville contain trees entering their 3rd year of growth.

Additional Milestone: Milestone 17, Harvester Testing and Modification has been completed and the report is being prepared.
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