the Louisiana (German) Pellets facility in Urania sits idle now, but thanks to the recent purchase by Atlanta-based Drax Biomass, no time line has ever since.

The statement further noted that between seven and 10 inches of rain fell across portions of the parish and survey teams from the NWS were in Urania Parish Monday through Thursday of last week revisiting the damage to determine the number and rankings of the tornados.

A strong springtime storm system brought severe weather with several supercell thunderstorms developed across East Texas and Western and North Central Louisiana beginning in the late morning of Sunday, April 2, a statement from the NWS said. “During the afternoon, a large linear complex and bow echo developed that moved along the Intertwse 20 corridor with several reports of suspected tornados.”

The Louisiana (German) Pellets facility in Urania sits idle now, but thanks to the recent bankruptcy filing by Drax Biomass of Atlanta, GA, it will soon be operational. The global wood pellets production company said it will take some time to get everything ready to start production at the new facility.

Principally in charge for the re-opening of the Pellet Plant was Pete Madden, President and Chief Executive Officer of Drax Biomass on April 3. “Louisiana Pellets filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in February 2016 and has been idle ever since. According to officials with Drax Biomass, no time line has been established on when the facility will be operational but they are determined to get it up and running as quickly as possible.

A group of volunteers, including parents of children attending the school as well as other interested people, showed up at the school Monday morning to begin clearing trees, limbs, cleaning the campus, and doing whatever they could to get the school re-opened as soon as possible. All schools in the parish were closed on Monday, April 3, because of the storms that moved through the area on Sunday. However, Pullman Elementary was closed for the remainder of last week.

School Board declares state of emergency

A day after a tornado heavily damaged Foundation Christian School in the Belah Community, the LaSalle Parish School Board declared a state of emergency so funds could be freed to make repairs to the school building.

The action came as the board approved a motion to suspend the rules and add an item to the agenda at the board’s regular April meeting held Monday of last week.

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The statement further noted that between seven and 10 inches of rain fell across portions of the parish and survey teams from the NWS were in Urania Parish Monday through Thursday of last week revisiting the damage to determine the number and rankings of the tornados.
The board voted to accept the low bid for technology supplies: bid #30E-16 – general and admin supplies, bid #31S-14, smart boards; bid #36L-13, literacy and language, bid #36L-15, science materials and supplies; bid #36L-16 – general and admin supplies, bid #36L-17 – literacy and language, and bid #36L-18 – science materials and supplies, and art, music, and physical education materials.

The board also voted to accept the low bid for classroom supplies: bid #31S-15 – supplies, bid #31S-16 – janitorial and sanitary supplies.

During the commis- sions, members unani- mously expressed the pre- cious importance of good teachers and the value of taking care of all school employees. According to Director of Communica- tions, Melanie Paul, the district is glad that the school board “really does see what the need is in the commu- nity and are committed to keeping the school open.”

The board also voted to accept the low bid of $43,145.00 for the repair and replacement of the roof where the schools had the tornado damage.

The board expressed thanks to everyone who helped out during the disaster.

The school board declared a state of emer- gency at their April meeting on Monday night of last week so classes can resume immediately to do needed repairs at the school.

Fellowship Elementary School passed the final agenda and classes resumed at the school on Tues- day morning. The school was heavily damaged by a tornado that ripped through the Belh- commu- nities.

Fellowship was closed all last week and until Tuesday of this week as repairs were made on the roof. The roof needs under construction and is tarped at this time.

More than 50 volunteers showed up at the school on Monday following the storm to help get classrooms cleaned up and the school grounds cleared of debris.

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