

## **Characterization of residual streams and value-added markets**

### **Robert Buchan**

VP Government Relations, Marketing, Communications  
Cosmo Specialty Fibers  
Cosmopolis, Washington

Cosmo Specialty Fibers is a dissolving wood pulp mill in Cosmopolis, WA, closed for five years and then reopened in 2011 by the Gores Group, an LA-based, private equity firm. The business plan is to restore the mill's market position as a high-purity acetate pulp provider to major world chemical companies. While the mill always had bio-refinery potential, the decision to examine the feasibility of producing sugars and bio-chemicals from the mill's residual streams took on greater urgency as the mill met with economic and tariff headwinds. Laboratory analysis of the mill's residual production streams, along with a review of market trends for cellulosic bio-products has led to business conclusions that could be transformational for the mill's financial stability, and could have a significant impact on economically-distressed Grays Harbor County. The evolution of traditional pulp mills into bio-refineries is not new but a combination of public policy goals and global market events have greatly heightened the opportunity for Cosmo Specialty Fibers along with many challenges.