

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

BUREAU OF AIR, PERMIT SECTION

IN THE MATTER OF:

Proposed issuance of a construction
permit/PSD approval to Christian County
Generation, L.L.C., in Taylorville

Public hearing held on Thursday, January 11, 2007,
at the hour of 7:00 p.m. at Taylorville High School,
815 Springfield Road, in Taylorville, Illinois.

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COPY

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1 combined cycle combustion turbines, and other ancillary
2 operations.

3 The Illinois EPA has made a
4 preliminary determination to issue a permit for the project
5 and has prepared a draft permit for review.

6 The Illinois EPA is holding a
7 public-comment period and this hearing to accept comments
8 from the public on the proposed issuance of a permit for
9 this project prior to our actually making a final decision
10 on the application.

11 The project is considered a major
12 project under the federal rules for prevention of
13 significant deterioration, or PSD, for emissions of
14 nitrogen oxides or N-O-X or NOX; sulfur dioxide, SO₂;
15 particulate matter, PM; carbon monoxide, CO; and sulfuric
16 acid mist.

17 Under the PSD rules, the plant must
18 use Best Available Control Technology or B-A-C-T, BACT for
19 short, for emissions of these pollutants.

20 And I apologize for the acronyms.

21 Christian County Generation has
22 proposed high-efficiency cleaning of the raw syngas prior
23 to combustion as BACT for emissions of SO₂, PM, and
24 sulfuric acid mist.

1 For CO and NOX, which are formed by
2 fuel combustion in the turbines, Christian County
3 Generation has proposed good combustion practices and the
4 combination of nitrogen injection and selective catalytic
5 reduction.

6 The Illinois EPA's initial review
7 concludes that these measures and other proposed control
8 measures will provide BACT for the project.

9 The air-quality analysis submitted
10 by Christian County Generation for this project also shows
11 that it will not cause a violation of the National Ambient
12 Air Quality Standards, N-A-A-Q-S, or NAAQS, for NOX, SO2,
13 PM10, or CO or an exceedance of applicable PSD increments.

14 It is now 7:09 p.m. on Thursday,
15 January 11. And again, this hearing is being held for the
16 purpose of explaining our draft permit, to respond to
17 questions, and to receive public comments on the draft
18 permit.

19 I'm going to walk very quickly
20 through a couple of introductory matters here.

21 The public hearing is being held
22 under the provisions of the Illinois EPA's procedures for
23 permit and closure-plan hearings, which can be found in
24 Title 35 of the Illinois Administrative Code Part 166.

1 Copies of these procedures can be
2 obtained from myself upon request or they can be accessed
3 on the Web site of the Illinois Pollution Control Board at
4 www.ipcb.state.il.us.

5 A public hearing means this is
6 strictly an informational hearing. It is an opportunity
7 for the Illinois EPA to provide you with information
8 concerning the permit. And it is also an opportunity for
9 you to provide information to Illinois EPA concerning the
10 permit. This is not a contested hearing.

11 I'd like to first explain how
12 tonight's hearing is going to proceed. We will have the
13 Illinois EPA staff members present introduce themselves and
14 identify their responsibilities at the Illinois EPA.

15 I will then introduce the
16 representatives of Christian County Generation. Following
17 the Illinois EPA's overview, I will allow the public to ask
18 questions or provide comments.

19 You are not required to verbalize
20 your comments, as written comments are given the same
21 consideration and may be submitted to the agency at any
22 time within the public-comment period which ends at
23 midnight on February 10, 2007.

24 Any person who wants to make oral

1 comments may do so as long as the statements are relevant
2 to the issues that are addressed at the hearing and such
3 person has indicated on the registration card that he or
4 she would like to comment.

5 When you came into the building --
6 into the room, there were people at the front desk and
7 there are cards that you should have filled out if you were
8 interested in either making oral comments or receiving a
9 summary of the hearing.

10 So if you do wish to make comments,
11 if you haven't filled out a card yet, then please go back
12 and do so. And we will collect those cards throughout the
13 night if you haven't had a chance to do that.

14 If you have lengthy comments or
15 questions, it may be helpful to submit them to me in
16 writing before the close of the comment period and I will
17 ensure that they are included in the hearing record as
18 exhibits.

19 Please keep your comments and
20 questions relevant to the issue at hand. If your comments
21 fall outside of the scope of this hearing, I may ask you to
22 proceed to another issue.

23 All speakers have the option of
24 directing questions to either the Illinois EPA's panel or

1 they can just make general comments or they can do both.

2 The applicant, Christian Conty
3 Generation, is also free to answer questions if it is
4 willing to do so, but I am not in a position to require
5 them to answer questions.

6 Our panel members will make every
7 attempt to answer the questions presented, but I will not
8 allow the speakers to argue or cross-examine or engage in a
9 prolonged dialogue with our panel.

10 For the purpose of allowing everyone
11 to have a chance to comment, I am asking that groups,
12 organizations, and associations keep their questions and
13 comments to approximately 15 minutes and that individuals
14 keep their comments to approximately five minutes in the
15 interest of time and to give everyone who desires to speak
16 that opportunity.

17 In addition, I would like to stress
18 that we want to avoid unnecessary repetition. So if anyone
19 before you has already presented testimony that is
20 contained in your written or oral comments, please skip
21 over those issues when you testify.

22 Please remember all written comments
23 whether or not you say them out loud will become part of
24 the official record and will be considered.

1 After everyone has had an
2 opportunity to speak and provided the time permits, we will
3 allow those who either ran out of time during their initial
4 comments or who have additional comments to speak.

5 On the registration cards -- and I'm
6 sorry. If you did fill out a registration card, you
7 could -- you can ask to receive a summary of the public
8 hearing.

9 The information -- if you need -- if
10 you need information beyond the summary that's provided or
11 if you would like information now, I can direct you to the
12 Illinois EPA's Web site where you can receive all the
13 details including our responsiveness summary.

14 The Illinois EPA's Web site is
15 www.epa.state.il.us.

16 The Illinois EPA's responsiveness
17 summary will attempt to answer all the relevant and
18 significant questions that were raised at this hearing or
19 submitted to me prior to the close of the comment period.

20 Again, the written record in this
21 matter will close on January 25, 2007. Therefore, I will
22 accept all written comments as long as they are postmarked
23 by midnight on February 10th.

24 During the comment period, all

1 relevant comments, documents, or data will also be placed
2 into the hearing record as exhibits.

3 Again, please send all written
4 documents or data to my attention. You can send those to
5 the following address: John Kim -- it's K-i-m -- Hearing
6 Officer, Illinois EPA, 1021 North Grand Avenue East,
7 P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794.

8 And that address is also listed on
9 the public notice for the hearing tonight.

10 For anyone wishing to make a comment
11 or ask questions, I would like to remind you that we have a
12 court reporter here who will be taking a record of these
13 proceedings for the purpose of us putting together our
14 administrative record.

15 Therefore, for her benefit, please
16 keep the general background noise in the room to a minimum
17 so that she can hear everything that is said.

18 Also, please keep in mind that any
19 comments from somebody other than the person who is at the
20 microphone will not be reported by the court reporter.

21 In other words, she cannot take more
22 than one person's testimony or statements at a time. And
23 the only person that she will be taking will be the person
24 whose turn it is to speak.

1 If you speak over somebody else, she
2 will not be able to take everyone's comments in. That rule
3 also applies not only when members of the audience are
4 speaking, but also when someone from Illinois EPA or from
5 Christian County Generation is speaking.

6 When it is your turn to speak,
7 please speak clearly and slowly into the microphone so that
8 she can understand what you are saying.

9 Also, when you do begin to speak,
10 please state your name and, if applicable, any governmental
11 body, organization, or association that you represent. And
12 for the benefit of the court reporter, we ask that you
13 spell your last name.

14 People who have requested to speak
15 will be called upon in the order that I will lay out based
16 upon the cards that I have here before me.

17 And again, after I've gone through
18 the cards and assuming that there is time that's allowed,
19 if anyone else wishes to make a comment, we can address
20 that at that time.

21 I would like to now first ask the
22 Illinois EPA staff here to introduce themselves. And if
23 they'd like to make a short opening statement, they can do
24 so at that time.

1 MR. ROMAINE: Good evening. Thank you
2 for coming tonight. My name is Christopher Romaine. I'm
3 manager of the utility unit in the Air-Permit Section.

4 MR. SMET: Good evening. My name is Bob
5 Smet. I'm the Permit Engineer in the Bureau of Air as
6 well.

7 I have a written statement here. I
8 wish I could memorize it, but I have to read it.

9 Good evening. My name is Bob Smet
10 and I'm a permit engineer in the Illinois EPA's Bureau of
11 Air. I will be giving you a brief description of the
12 project.

13 Christian County Generation has
14 requested a construction permit to construct the
15 Taylorville Energy Center, which would be designated to
16 generate 630 megawatts of usable electricity, which would
17 be put out onto the grid using Illinois coal as a
18 feedstock.

19 The proposed plant will be located
20 roughly 2 miles northeast of Taylorville. The plant would
21 be an Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle power plant.

22 Unlike a conventional power plant
23 that combusts coal in a boiler and subsequently controls
24 pollutants in the flue gases from the boiler, an Integrated

1 Gasification Combined Cycle power plant, or IGCC plant, as
2 it is more commonly known, gasifies the coal and cleans the
3 resulting fuel gas prior to it being combusted in turbines
4 that then generate electricity.

5 The hot exhaust from the turbines is
6 then used to heat steam that runs a steam turbine that
7 generates additional electricity, thus increasing the
8 energy efficiency of the IGCC plant compared to those of
9 conventional coal-fired power plants using boilers.

10 Because the proposed plant would be
11 a major source of emissions, the emissions from the plant
12 must be controlled with Best Available Control Technology.

13 The coal gasification process and
14 subsequent cleanup process will be very effective in
15 controlling emissions of sulfur dioxide and particulate
16 matter.

17 During normal operation, other than
18 startup, the only emission point from gasification would be
19 from the sulfur recovery unit, whereby the sulfur is
20 recovered as a saleable by-product offsite which will be
21 controlled with a tailgas treatment unit and thermal
22 oxidizer.

23 For the turbines, the use of a
24 selective catalytic reduction unit and good combustion

1 practices will be Best Available Control Technology for
2 nitrogen oxides.

3 Likewise, emissions from other units
4 at the plant such as an auxiliary boiler, material handling,
5 and other emission units will be controlled using Best
6 Available Control Technology as well.

7 The emission rates for the plant,
8 expressed in pounds of pollutant per megawatt of
9 electricity generated, are projected to be significantly
10 lower than those from a boiler-based coal-fired power
11 plant.

12 The air-quality analysis for the
13 project submitted by Christian County Generation and
14 reviewed by the Illinois EPA shows that the proposed
15 project will not cause or contribute to violations of
16 ambient air-quality standards.

17 The proposed permit for the plant
18 contains limitations on and requirements for operation of
19 the plant. The permit also establishes appropriate
20 testing, monitoring, record keeping, and reporting
21 requirements.

22 This includes continuous emissions
23 monitoring for the combustion turbine's emissions of
24 nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide. Emissions of sulfur

1 dioxide would also have to be monitored if the sulfur
2 content of the flue gas is not monitored.

3 I apologize. That's fuel gas is not
4 monitored.

5 In closing, the Illinois EPA is
6 proposing to grant a construction permit for the proposed
7 Taylorville Energy Center project. We welcome your
8 comments or questions on our proposed action.

9 Thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER KIM: I'd also like to
11 note that on behalf of Christian County Generation,
12 Mr. Mike Menace and Greg Kunkel at the table up here at the
13 front are present.

14 Again, they are not here to answer
15 questions unless they so desire. If you do have a question
16 that you would like to present on the record that would be
17 phrased as if it would be directed to them, that's
18 certainly fine, you can do that.

19 They, like everybody else, have an
20 opportunity to file a comment at the conclusion of the
21 hearing. And it is up to the permit applicant to decide
22 how they'd like to put together their comments.

23 Does anybody have any question as to
24 the procedure on how we're going to conduct this hearing

1 this evening before we get to the speakers? Okay.

2 The first speaker, then -- and I ask
3 that, again, so that everybody can hear you and especially
4 so that the court reporter can hear you, we'd like you to
5 come up to the front and speak at the podium here.

6 The first speaker that we have is
7 Frank Mathon, who is the mayor of Taylorville.

8 MR. MATHON: Thank you. I never win a
9 lottery.

10 Christian County Generation, L.L.C.,
11 has applied for an air pollution construction permit to
12 build an Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle plant in
13 Taylorville.

14 The plant construction represents
15 significant economic-development opportunity for not only
16 Taylorville, but for the community -- Taylorville
17 community, but Central Illinois in general.

18 This project represents job
19 opportunities for a variety of labor unions and once
20 constructed will represent additional job growth through
21 retail, small industry, and housing.

22 As a personal lifelong resident of
23 the city of Taylorville and an ex-teacher and currently
24 mayor of the city of Taylorville, I wholeheartedly support

1 and I believe the alderman and city council also support
2 the issuance of a construction permit for this project and
3 respectfully request that the utmost consideration be given
4 to this project.

5 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

6 The next speaker is David Kolata
7 with the Citizens Utility Board.

8 MR. KOLATA. Thank you.

9 My name is Dave Kolata. I'm the
10 Executive Director of the Citizens Utility Board, and I
11 rise in support of the proposed Taylorville Energy Center.

12 For those of you who don't know,
13 we're a consumer-advocacy organization in the state of
14 Illinois. We have about a hundred thousand members. And
15 basically our job is to fight for cheaper phone bills, gas
16 bills, and electric bills.

17 And that's exactly why I'm here
18 today, because coal-gasification projects like the
19 Taylorville Energy Center are really a win-win-win for the
20 State of Illinois.

21 It's obviously good for economic
22 development in Central and Southern Illinois and Christian
23 County and Taylorville.

24 It's good for the environment

1 because the emissions are much less than the traditional
2 coal generation. It's also good for consumers.

3 There's a way this can be done to
4 provide a stable hedge against volatile market prices, and
5 we can actually get prices down that are cheaper a little
6 bit than current market prices.

7 This is absolutely something that we
8 think is essential for the energy policy in the state of
9 Illinois.

10 We're going to be working hard on
11 this issue. We're going to be building a coalition in
12 favor of getting basically coal-gasification projects built
13 as soon as possible.

14 We look forward to working with
15 everyone here in this room and others throughout the
16 state. We certainly want to break ground soon. It's
17 essential that we have a long-term energy policy in the
18 state of Illinois that's going to be good for consumers.

19 This is part of that. Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

21 The next speaker is John Thompson
22 with the Clean Air Task Force.

23 And again, I would just remind you,
24 for the benefit of the court reporter, if you could spell

1 your last name.

2 MR. THOMPSON: Good evening.

3 First may I ask, can you hear me in
4 the back? Thank you.

5 My name is John Thompson, spelled
6 T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n. I'm the Director of the Coal Transition
7 Project for the Clean Air Task Force.

8 For those of you who are not
9 familiar with the task force, we are a national
10 environmental organization who are headquartered in Boston,
11 Massachusetts. We employ approximately 20 professionals.

12 Our focus is on atmospheric air
13 pollution. We focus on two issues in particular:
14 particulate matter that is linked to premature deaths and
15 CO2 and other greenhouse gases that are linked to global
16 warming and those types of issues.

17 I live in Canton, Illinois. My
18 office is in Carbondale. Our address is 231 West Main
19 Street, Carbondale, 62901.

20 By way of background I would like to
21 say that I have -- I'm a chemical engineer by training. I
22 have an MBA. I work across the nation on coal issues.

23 I have testified and written
24 comments on over a dozen coal projects ranging in Montana,

1 Wisconsin, Kentucky, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Texas.
2 And here in Illinois I've been an expert witness in a
3 number of coal-plant proceedings.

4 Here in Illinois the Clean Air Task
5 Force has filed comments on air permits in NDEC and Prairie
6 State and on the proposed coal plant by CWLP in
7 Springfield. I have co-chaired technology subcommittee of
8 the Western Governors' Association Clean Coal Task Force.

9 I've also served as a member of the
10 Clean Coal Study Group in Wisconsin formed by Governor Jim
11 Doyle to examine coal-gasification issues and also served
12 as a member of the Advanced Coal Technology Work Group,
13 which is an advisory group to USEPA.

14 For the most part, the task force
15 has raised numerous concerns about coal plants with respect
16 to sulfur dioxides, nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide, and
17 mercury. And these have been generally reflected in the
18 comments and testimony that I have given in the past.

19 I'm here tonight to speak in favor
20 of this coal plant and to urge the Illinois EPA to issue
21 this air permit.

22 This plant is fundamentally
23 different than the coal plants that provide electricity
24 here in the United States. It is fundamentally different

1 from the coal plants that make up the bulk of the proposed
2 coal plants that are to be built in the United States,
3 Europe, China, and India.

4 This coal plant, because it uses
5 Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle, is inherently
6 cleaner than the coal plants that we had become accustomed
7 to in this country.

8 We will be providing more detailed
9 technical comments in written form in advance of the
10 January 25th deadline, but I would make a couple of general
11 observations about this plant and why it is significant and
12 why it needs to be built.

13 First, this plant is among six or
14 seven proposed IGCC plants that are in the permit queue
15 nationwide.

16 That includes plants such as ones
17 proposed by AEP, the largest coal user in the western
18 hemisphere in Ohio and West Virginia; Duke Energy in
19 Edwardsport, Indiana; Tom Due Corporation in Texas;
20 Northwest Energy in Washington; and several other plants
21 such as Masaba in Minnesota.

22 This is the first plant of that
23 batch to actually receive a draft air permit. This plant
24 sets the standard for those plants that follow, and it sets

1 a standard for what coal combustion and coal technology can
2 be in this country and around the world.

3 Criteria pollutants that would be
4 emitted by this plant are significantly, even radically
5 lower than any of the conventional coal-plant applications
6 or plants that are in operation in the United States
7 today.

8 Sulfur dioxide is estimated by the
9 agency and the applicant to be no greater than 300 tons of
10 emissions each year. It's hard to convey sometimes how
11 radically low that amount of pollution is.

12 Consider for the moment the average
13 coal plant in the state of Illinois. Consider, if you
14 will, a plant that would be of the same size as the one
15 proposed here in Christian County.

16 That plant emits vastly more
17 pollution. In fact, it would take the Christian County
18 facility 65 years of continuous operation to equal even one
19 year's worth of sulfur dioxide emitted from the average
20 plant in Illinois of the same size.

21 That is a difference that is
22 significant. That is a difference that sets a standard.
23 It's a similar story with nitrogen oxides which are
24 estimated to be no greater than 629 tons per year from this

1 plant.

2 This plant is important because it
3 includes technology that is not found in any coal plant in
4 the world today. It is proposed to use selesa to control
5 sulfur dioxide, and this technology can remove greater than
6 99 percent of the sulfur found in the syngas. Actually,
7 even higher than that.

8 The sulfur emissions are so low that
9 they allow this plant to include a device not found on any
10 gasification project in this country in operation today.
11 And that's called an SCR.

12 It removes nitrogen-oxide levels to
13 extremely low levels. In fact, the emissions criteria
14 pollutants from this plant, while still higher than a
15 natural-gas combined-cycle plant, rival those fossil, those
16 natural-gas plants in terms of their emissions.

17 They are much lower than any kind of
18 conventional coal plant that we have. It's imperative that
19 this plant get a permit because it sets the standard for
20 all plants that follow.

21 It's imperative that this plant
22 break ground and go into operation because the day that it
23 begins operations, the remaining 500 or more units of coal
24 plants in this country become obsolete.

1 You know, we have approximately
2 25,000 premature deaths linked to coal-plant emissions
3 every year in this country from sulfur dioxide and nitrogen
4 oxides.

5 If those coal plants met the
6 emissions profile of the Christian County facility, we
7 could bring that number of 25,000 premature deaths down
8 every single year.

9 And that rivals the amount of
10 premature deaths from automobile accidents in this
11 country. We can bring that down to a very low, low level.

12 Second issue that this plant is
13 significant in terms of is global warming. Over the next
14 30 years, coal use worldwide is expected to double. One of
15 the key emissions from these coal plants will be carbon
16 dioxide. Carbon dioxide is linked to global warming.

17 We are seeing unusually high levels
18 of CO2 in the atmosphere. China has added at least one new
19 coal plant every week. Last year they added enough new
20 coal plants alone in that country to provide all of the
21 electricity needs of France.

22 Those plants lack the capability of
23 capturing carbon dioxide because they rely on conventional
24 pulverized coal technology.

1 If we don't transition coal to a
2 low-carbon emitter, we have no hope of preventing global
3 warming. CO2 is a long-lived pollutant. Once it's in the
4 atmosphere, it's in the atmosphere for hundreds of years
5 and it blankets and locks in heat.

6 We have to transition coal to a
7 point where we don't capture -- where we capture the CO2.
8 Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle technology that
9 would be used in Taylorville has the capability to capture
10 CO2 because the gas that is produced is a high pressure and
11 it is more economic to capture the CO2.

12 To be clear, this plant is not
13 proposing to capture CO2, but it is a vital step in the
14 direction of managing carbon-dioxide emissions into the
15 atmosphere.

16 As we are here in January of 2007,
17 we won't be able to predict the significance of this
18 plant. But it is quite possible -- in fact, I would submit
19 to you quite likely that this plant that is proposed for
20 your community may have global significance.

21 It is the first IGCC plant in the
22 world to Get of significant size to reach a draft air
23 permit status. All the other IGCC plants that utilize coal
24 around the world are only 250 megawatts.

1 There are refinery IGCC plants in
2 Italy that use not coal, but refinery waste that are
3 500 megawatts. This is the first one to reach a size that
4 electric utilities consider to be commercially
5 significant.

6 This is the first plant in the
7 permit que to receive a draft permit that would have
8 selexta and SCRs for a coal IGCC plant anywhere in the
9 world.

10 And if this plant is issued and if
11 this plant breaks ground, it's quite possible that people
12 from around the world will be coming to your community to
13 see how it works, to learn from you how it might be that we
14 can solve some of the most significant global environmental
15 problems facing the 21st Century.

16 I urge the agency to act promptly on
17 this permit so that the opportunity to advance and address
18 these global environmental problems will move forward
19 expeditiously.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 (Applause.)

22 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Before we go to the
23 next speaker, just, I may have misstated something and
24 Mr. Thompson may have repeated my misstatement.

1 I just want to make clear again --
2 and I'll repeat this several more times -- the
3 public-comment period for this permit proceeding concludes
4 on February 10, not January 25. February 10.

5 I'm looking at an old draft of some
6 notes. I may have said the wrong date by mistake. I
7 apologize.

8 The next speaker is Joyce
9 Blumenshine with the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club.
10 Apologize if I mispronounced your last name.

11 MS. BLUMENSHINE: Thank you. Joyce
12 Blumenshine, B-l-u-m-e-n-s-h-i-n-e. Thank you very much.

13 Well, I came up here and we were
14 looking for a parking place. I thought, hey, this will be
15 the largest turnout for a hearing ever. There's a great
16 hearing tonight.

17 A lot of people, you should be at a
18 basketball game or doing something else. And I commend you
19 because your interest and concern for your community and
20 for your county is obvious.

21 I'm here because of an interest and
22 concern also for this community and also for a larger
23 range. I'm a volunteer with Heart of Illinois group Sierra
24 Club.

1 Part of my duties with the State of
2 Illinois and Sierra Club is as a community chairman for
3 conservation. And we have committees that include people
4 from Chicago down to the tip of Southern Illinois.

5 And one of the committees I chair is
6 the mining committee, and our members are concerned about
7 this site. I know that the Sierra Club has supported many
8 union job places, and I just want to add some concerns
9 related to air on two issues.

10 One issue is on the coal that will
11 be the source of energy for this plant. I know that the
12 labor unions are happy about this. I wonder if the miners
13 are happy.

14 I would like to ask if you folks in
15 the labor unions who are looking ahead at a great potential
16 here remember your friends and brothers in the mining
17 unions and ask what's going to happen to them regarding the
18 site.

19 We are concerned in Sierra Club with
20 the prospects of long-wall mining just south of you in
21 Macoupin, Montgomery County in particular. You live in the
22 breadbasket of Illinois and the heart land of the prime ag
23 lands that sustain food for our country and for many other
24 people.

1 If this land is long-wall mined, it
2 will not reach its productive levels ever again. So there
3 are issues that go far beyond the immediate, you know,
4 future horizon that you see for economic development here.

5 We have a saying in the Sierra Club,
6 our motto is protect the environment for our families and
7 for our future. That is each and every one of our jobs.

8 And another saying in the Sierra
9 Club is we're all connected, the environment's connected,
10 everything we do is connected to something else. And so
11 for this plant it's not just the energy.

12 It's where's the coal going to come
13 from? Who's going to get the jobs for that coal and what
14 is the mining of that coal going to do to the rest of your
15 neighbors, your friends, your brothers, and other union
16 members?

17 Now, just a few weeks ago I was down
18 in Hillsboro at the state Sierra Club executive board
19 meeting which was at the Montgomery County Farm Bureau.

20 And we were there to hear about
21 concerns on long-wall mining. And that involves, I'm sure,
22 a lot of your farm families, friends, and people that you
23 know.

24 So I want to raise an issue of coal

1 mining because it relates to air pollution. It relates
2 very closely to this plant. I hope that you're all
3 concerned about that.

4 The second issue I want to mention
5 is landfill. You will have a landfill with this plant.
6 Now, I'm concerned about landfills that I have been in
7 Peoria. Peoria has the last and only hazardous-waste
8 landfill in this state.

9 That hazardous-waste landfill is at
10 the very edge of the city where I live. Part of it's in
11 the city. There are 53,190 people within 3 miles of the
12 Peoria disposal company hazardous-waste landfill.

13 What goes into that landfill is
14 toxic hazardous waste, and it is the only landfill in
15 Illinois that receives MGP waste, Manufactured Gas Plant
16 waste. That's an issue for this town.

17 I want you to know it's an issue for
18 the people of Peoria and it's an issue for the state Sierra
19 Club. We are concerned about what is the content of the
20 vitrified slag that will be put in the landfill that's
21 going to be right next to this plant at the outskirts of
22 your town.

23 We hope that this landfill will have
24 liners. Do you know what the lining situation will be for

1 the landfill? We'd like you to ask. And how many monitor
2 wells will there be? Is there going to be leachate
3 detection system for this landfill?

4 I believe you have an aquifer to the
5 east of that area. What's the hydrology of this area if
6 this landfill continues for years to take the vitrified
7 slag? What's going to be the impacts on your aquifer?

8 What are the hazardous-response-team
9 concerns for the landfill that's going to be right next to
10 this plant? I would like to know too is there a Material
11 Safety Data Sheet, MSDS, for the vitrified slag and what
12 toxic substances are in that?

13 Are we talking about cyanide? Are
14 we talking about what kind of hazard? Because this is a
15 landfill that's going to be built next to your plant and it
16 will be there forever.

17 I mean, in Peoria our landfill
18 wastes have been there for years and it's forever. And
19 once the plant closes, what's the long-term-perpetual-care
20 plan for this landfill?

21 Is that included in this whole plant
22 package? There are many, many issues to this plant. I
23 just hope you don't let your, you know, eyes be glazed over
24 with the good things about the problems that are made.

1 There's lots of questions to ask.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 HEARING OFFICER KIM: The next speaker --
5 and as a side note, I think it's probably -- although I
6 think everyone may tend to favor one side or the other of
7 different view points that are presented, it's probably
8 going to be more productive if we simply just allow the
9 speaker to finish and then move on to the next person.

10 The next speaker is Becky Clayborn,
11 who's also with the Sierra Club.

12 MS. CLAYBORN: Hi. My name is Becky
13 Clayborn, C-l-a-y-b-o-r-n. I'm a regional representative
14 for the Sierra Club Midwest Clean Energy Campaign.

15 The Sierra Club is the oldest and
16 largest environmental organization in the United States.
17 We have about 850,000 members. We were formed 119 years
18 ago.

19 And basically, we were the ones that
20 got our national parks created. And we try to protect our
21 national parks, our environment that we enjoy, and protect
22 our families and the health of our communities.

23 The Midwest Clean Energy Campaign
24 works in ten states in the Midwest, most of them coal

1 states, to ensure that the new energy production that
2 happens in our states use the cleanest energy possible.

3 We've had a big focus on Illinois
4 because Illinois had the most new coal-fired power plants
5 proposed in the entire United States. Texas is right
6 behind us, but right now Illinois is leading in the new
7 coal-fired power plants that are being proposed.

8 This is, however, the first
9 gasification plant that's been proposed in Illinois. So
10 it's a little bit different. We also have the most ethanol
11 power plants being proposed.

12 But the exciting thing is is that we
13 have a large potential for renewables here in Illinois.
14 It's not just a southwest thing. It's not just
15 California. We're going to do it here in Illinois as
16 well.

17 Right now we have about
18 105 megawatts of wind power installed, but we have a
19 thousand megawatts wind power being proposed throughout the
20 state of Illinois.

21 Those are jobs for unions just as
22 much as a coal-fired power plant is. Might be different.
23 Electrical workers might get different kinds of jobs, but
24 it's still going to be work.

1 In Illinois we have about 27,000
2 members, and in Illinois we have challenged every single
3 new coal-fired power plant that's been permitted or that's
4 requested a permit.

5 Some of them we've stopped; some of
6 them are still appealed; some of them are just kind of
7 stagnated; and some of them we've actually worked with the
8 utilities to figure out how we can work together to make
9 sure that they're the cleanest possible power plant and
10 that we're investing in renewable energy here in Illinois
11 so that we boost cleaner energy possibilities.

12 Some of you may have heard about the
13 Springfield agreement. We worked with the Springfield City
14 Water Light Power, and some of you here are from the unions
15 actually were on our side there trying to help us get that
16 done. And we appreciate that.

17 We can have disagreements about
18 where we're coming from on these issues, but in terms of
19 what Sierra Club does, we'll always be willing to sit down
20 and talk and figure out if we can find a common ground.

21 And these guys have been great from
22 Aurora. They've invited us out early today. We took a
23 tour of the site so we could see exactly what's going on
24 out there and just affect of the natural resources that

1 we're concerned about like the water and the air.

2 So we appreciate that. However,
3 there are some issues that we have concerns about, and one
4 of the biggest issues is actually something that we have a
5 concern with the Illinois EPA about.

6 And that's the lack of a holistic
7 approach for these new coal-fired power plants or any new
8 power plant. Every power plant has to go through a series
9 of permits in order to be built.

10 First it's the air permit and you
11 look only at the air. You can only ask air questions. You
12 can't ask anything else because these are the air people,
13 they only know about air.

14 So then two weeks, two months, a
15 year from now you have to go through the process for the
16 water permit and ask all your water questions and only ask
17 water questions 'cause they already answered the air
18 questions.

19 And there's no format for the
20 public, all of you -- and I'm so excited that so many
21 people came out tonight. It's very exciting for us.

22 For all of you that are interested
23 and concerned about what's going on in your community, is
24 your water going to be safe to drink, is your air going to

1 be safe to breathe, and are you going to be able to eat the
2 fish down the road that you catch?

3 Those are the questions that you can
4 get answers if you can look at the whole thing as one big
5 project and not get split up into parts.

6 So I am going to bring up some
7 issues about renewable energy that aren't air issues except
8 that they are air issues.

9 And one of the things that I'd like
10 to ask the EPA is, as part of the BACT process, if
11 alternatives to coal combustion or coal gasification were
12 considered in this project?

13 MR. ROMAINE: No, they were not.

14 MS. CLAYBORN: Is there a reason they
15 weren't?

16 MR. ROMAINE: We were sent with this
17 particular project for us. We believe that coal
18 gasification is an important development for the State of
19 Illinois and for the development of environmental
20 technology.

21 It does not preclude other
22 alternatives being pursued for environmental purposes, but
23 it certainly is a very important part of the suite of
24 technology that is important for the future of Illinois and

1 the nation, perhaps the globe.

2 MS. CLAYBORN: Thanks.

3 In looking at the alternatives of
4 this power plant, I'm wondering also if Aurora looked at
5 the wind potential in the area as opposed to building coal-
6 gasification plant?

7 I know you guys don't have to answer
8 right now, but if you want to answer me later, that would
9 be good too.

10 MR. ROMAINE: Clearly a wind plant does
11 not eliminate the need for the plant. Wind does not
12 provide continuous power like this plant would be, which be
13 is a base-loaded plant.

14 Again, a wind-powered plant would
15 function in conjunction with this plant to provide wind
16 power as an alternative ideally to Illinois' existing power
17 plants which don't have the modern technology that this
18 plant will be equipped with.

19 So again, we would be very happy to
20 have pursued wind power as part of this project, but it
21 isn't essential from our perspective that that be part of
22 this particular project.

23 MS. CLAYBORN: Sierra Club believes that
24 it's essential, actually, to explore alternatives and not

1 just rely on a combustion process that's going to put
2 emissions into our atmosphere.

3 I do have a question of IEPA as well
4 about the reuse of the wastewater in the cooling towers.
5 This was an issue that we have explored before.

6 And we have concerns that when --
7 basically, for those of you who don't know, wastewater is
8 going to be shipped down here from Decatur to be used in
9 the cooling towers and then when it's done, shipped back to
10 the wastewater treatment plant in Decatur.

11 My concern is is that -- well, first
12 let me ask, did this air permit take into consideration the
13 air emissions from the evaporation of that wastewater reuse
14 and what might be in that wastewater and be emitted?

15 MR. SMET: I don't know how to answer
16 that, only that I did not look into the matter in depth.

17 MS. CLAYBORN: We know that other states,
18 states like California are reusing wastewater from a
19 wastewater treatment plant for their cooling towers.

20 And on one hand Sierra Club thinks
21 that's great because it's a reuse of a water source as
22 opposed to a brand-new source of water like from an
23 aquifer.

24 However, California has regulations

1 that regulate that water reuse in a cooling tower to make
2 sure that the air emissions are not harmful to the
3 community members. We would like to see those emissions
4 considered in this air permit.

5 There are concerns about bromides,
6 specifically that are used in cooling towers. And we
7 are -- we also request of the Illinois EPA that regulations
8 be created to regulate such reuse of wastewater as this is
9 the first time that this would be permitted, if I
10 understand correctly.

11 And if we're going to keep trying
12 this wastewater reuse, then we need to have some sort of
13 regulation and standards.

14 And finally, carbon dioxide, we are
15 concerned about the carbon dioxide that's coming out of
16 this plant. We do understand that gasification has the
17 potential to capture the carbon dioxide and to somehow
18 sequester it or perhaps use it in another manufacturing
19 facility.

20 However, there are no plans at this
21 point for that carbon dioxide to be captured. So global
22 warming is a reality. There's no longer a debate about
23 whether or not global warming exists.

24 I was just at a training this week.

1 Al Gore was training people to do his slide presentation
2 about global warming, the inconvenient truth. There's no
3 more debate. Even utility companies, the CEO of Duke
4 Energy realizes that global warming is going to affect his
5 business.

6 When a utility burns coal and puts
7 carbon dioxide in the air, it affects globally what's
8 happening to our climate. It's not just global warming.
9 It's climate change. It's changing completely.

10 When I say that utilities are
11 concerned, it's because they know that there's probably
12 some sort of regulations coming down the line about CO2
13 which will probably be in the form of a tax or some sort of
14 a cap, which means it's going to be more expensive to
15 operate this power plant unless there's some sort of CO2
16 carbon-dioxide mitigation.

17 My understanding is that if there is
18 a tax put on this or on any power plant, that it makes it
19 so financially unfeasible, not feasible that there's the
20 possibility that the plant could shut down because it's too
21 expensive to operate.

22 What is this town going to do if
23 there's another old building out there next to the ADM
24 plant that's not working anymore either? What are they

1 going to do?

2 Has the community built into this
3 contract what happens if it closes down and who's going to
4 be responsible for that CO2 cost? Is it going to be the
5 community or is it going to be the company?

6 And finally, I think you guys should
7 realize that there's no customers yet for this power
8 plant. We don't know who's going to buy the power. Most
9 likely it's not going to be many people in Illinois.
10 Illinois already overproduces power.

11 We have 25 percent more than we
12 need, which basically means this power's going to get
13 shipped out to somebody else in a different state and we
14 get the pollution here in Illinois.

15 Let's please try not to make
16 Illinois the ashtray of the Midwest by shipping out energy
17 and keeping the pollution.

18 Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER KIM: The next speaker is
20 Verina Owen also with Sierra Club.

21 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

22 Verena Owen.

23 MS. OWEN: My name is Verena Owen. That's
24 V-e-r-e-n-a, O-w-e-n, a volunteer for the Sierra Club.

1 I've headed up their air campaign for the last three
2 years.

3 I, like John Thompson, have
4 commented on dozens of permits. I'm also on the national
5 committee for Sierra Club that's called Smart Energy
6 Solutions.

7 I just got back from D.C. I was
8 there for four days. It was 82 degrees on Saturday.
9 When I went home, I found a whole stash of unwashed
10 dishes. My four boys are home from school and they found
11 the paper plates.

12 I also found the front page of the
13 Tribune that says the warmest year ever. 55 degrees is the
14 average temperature in United States in 2006, the highest
15 on record.

16 But we asked ourselves the question,
17 can we beat global warming?

18 I will try and speak up. How's
19 that?

20 And the answer is, yes, we can.
21 Yes, we can. We have to and we can. We can do it if we
22 don't allow business as usual. We have to start reducing
23 global warming pollution now.

24 The promise of a capability to

1 capture global warming emissions in the power plant is no
2 longer good enough. We need to get started now.

3 To give you information as to how
4 much this plan will emit global warming emissions, the
5 Northeastern states have entered a voluntary greenhouse gas
6 emission reduction agreement that will reduce the
7 greenhouse gases by 24 million tons a year.

8 This plant alone would emit about
9 2 million tons. And we can do the math yourself. I'm
10 suddenly louder. Is that okay? Thank you so much. Much
11 better.

12 You probably ask yourself, how do we
13 fight global warming? We can beat it if we work together.
14 Last year the Sierra Club has entered into an agreement.
15 We have formed an alliance with the steel workers called
16 the Blue-Green Alliance.

17 When I was in D.C. at the national
18 committee -- by the way, I'm one of eight people out of
19 850,000 members that is a member of the Smart Energy
20 Solutions committee. I'm the only one from the Midwest.

21 We heard from the Blue-Green
22 Alliance. While I'm in Christian County, I thought I'd
23 mention that we have a wonderful presentation from the
24 National Council of Churches.

1 Everybody wants to work on global
2 warming. We can do it together and we did it in
3 Springfield. Springfield is not an IGCC plant. It's not a
4 gasification plant.

5 It was a regular old powerized coal
6 plant. But the Sierra Club did not oppose the permit
7 because Springfield wants to do what we all need to do.
8 They want to reduce global warming emissions. We got to an
9 agreement. They want do it and they're on the right path.

10 About ten years ago -- just to
11 switch topics 'cause we have wonderful agency here.

12 About two weeks ago Lieutenant
13 Governor Quinn handed out awards. They're called the
14 Environmental Awards. And I want to say that Joyce
15 Blumenshine, our conservation chair, received one for 2006,
16 environmental award for 30 years of diligent work on behalf
17 of Sierra Club on conservation issues.

18 And I was on it for my mercury
19 award. I am very proud what the state did. We have one of
20 the strongest mercury-reduction rules in the United
21 States. We're going to reduce mercury from our existing
22 coal-fired power plants by 90 percent.

23 It is outstanding. I was very proud
24 to work on this. And I'm sure that all the agency folks

1 are glad this is over.

2 I do have a question for Bob Smet,
3 please. I need your help. Could you tell me how much
4 mercury this plant will emit?

5 MR. SMET: I'm sorry?

6 MS. OWEN: How much mercury a year this
7 plant will emit.

8 MR. SMET: It's proposed to emit at the
9 performance level, the standard.

10 MS. OWEN: And can you give that in
11 pounds?

12 MR. SMET: We'll see.

13 We'll see if I can do my math.

14 MS. OWEN: Oh, I'm sure you can. I have
15 all the confidence in the world.

16 MR. SMET: It's permitted for potential
17 of 76 pounds.

18 MS. OWEN: 76 pounds.

19 I was at a meeting with the governor
20 in January, and he had a wonderful chart. It showed where
21 we were at last January. It was at 7,000 pounds and it
22 showed where he wants to be. He wanted to be at the end of
23 year a 90 percent reduction, 700 pounds.

24 So this new coal-fired power plant

1 with its 76 pounds of potential mercury would be 10 percent
2 of all the existing mercury from the 22-coal fired power
3 plants in the state?

4 MR. ROMAINE: No.

5 MS. OWEN: Can you explain the governor's
6 plan to me?

7 MR. ROMAINE: It's the difference between
8 actual emissions and potential emissions. This plant would
9 be subject to the governor's mercury proposal, The Illinois
10 mercury rule. Like other power plants in Illinois, they
11 would be required to control mercury emissions.

12 However, in terms of addressing
13 other emissions that the plant is permitted for, the
14 potential of this plant could be up to 76 pounds per year
15 based on the application that's currently before us.
16 Actual emissions could be significantly less.

17 MS. OWEN: To emit up to 76 pounds. I
18 guess that's a true statement.

19 MR. ROMAINE: Yes.

20 MS. OWEN: Thank you.

21 Since I have Mr. Romaine on the
22 microphone, you mentioned that the Illinois EPA felt this
23 plant is needed. Would you tell me how Illinois EPA
24 assesses needs, just quickly?

1 MR. ROMAINE: It's a decision that we
2 make in very broad terms looking at the types of proposals
3 that are presented for us.

4 I would refer to some of the
5 comments made by John Thompson that the nature of this
6 plant is fundamentally different from existing power
7 plants. It's a very important development for Illinois.

8 MS. OWEN: Thank you. Thank you so much.
9 And thank you for being here tonight. This is a wonderful
10 turnout. As a grassroots organizer, I like to see people
11 come out to things like this.

12 HEARING OFFICER KIM: The next speaker is
13 Phil Gonet with the Illinois Coal Association.

14 MR. GONET: I'm going to address the
15 Hearing Officer and panel here and not play to the crowd
16 like some of our earlier speakers have done.

17 My name is Phil Gonet. Last name is
18 spelled G-o-n-e-t. I'm the president of the Illinois Coal
19 Association, and I'm here to speak on behalf and in support
20 for this important project on behalf of the Illinois Coal
21 Association.

22 First I'd like to state the
23 obvious. Coal is in abundant supply in Illinois. We have
24 more coal beneath the borders of the state of Illinois than

1 there is -- the energy content of our coal than there is
2 oil in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait combined.

3 Now, it is true that that coal is
4 high-end sulfur. It's also high in energy content, BTU
5 content.

6 And the important thing about this
7 project that we've heard from Mr. Thompson, Mr. Kolata is
8 that this is a clean-coal technology, exceptional
9 technology, cutting-edge technology where the emissions
10 limits will be exceeded in every emission that's controlled
11 for by the rules and regulations that this agency is
12 charged to enforce.

13 We have over 100 billion tons of
14 recoverable coal in the state of Illinois, and we've only
15 hit a fracture of that amount. We see clean-coal
16 technology, coal gasification as the future of economic
17 development, the driver of economic development in our
18 state.

19 We have plans -- this is just one of
20 several plans that I think that you know of that will be
21 coming in Illinois.

22 Second point I'd like to make is
23 that coal gasification is capable of making multiple
24 products. We've talked tonight about a 660, I believe,

1 megawatt power plant.

2 But that's just one element of this
3 project. This project is capable of making synthetic
4 natural gas and diesel fuel, super-clean diesel fuel at
5 prices that are less than market prices today.

6 It's very important to the economy
7 of this state that this project go forward. I looked today
8 at a Web site and the prices for natural gas are never
9 lower than \$6.25 per million BTU for the next six years.

10 Coal gasification can make synthetic
11 natural gas for less than \$6.00 per million BTU. As Dave
12 Kolata says, this a win-win-win situation.

13 Clean-coal technology, good for
14 consumers, and good for jobs. We can produce these
15 products, multiple products and energy for less than market
16 prices today.

17 Next point I'd like to make is coal
18 gasification is a clean-coal technology and the BACT as you
19 have examined meets or exceeds every standard there.

20 I'm a little disappointed in the
21 Sierra Club's testimony here tonight or their comments and
22 concerns for CO2. We have -- there is concerns for CO2,
23 but this is the only technology out there that provides for
24 the separation of gases that makes the capture and

1 sequestration of CO2 possible.

2 And to oppose this project is to
3 oppose technology advancements that are going to lead to
4 carbon sequestration. We are a contender for the FutureGen
5 plant here in Illinois. We had two sites, Mattoon and
6 Tuscola.

7 And it's a federal private or public
8 private partnership to site the zero emissions power
9 plant. We will see the day hopefully in our lifetime when
10 we will control for all the gases that are emitted when you
11 gasify coal or burn coal.

12 That day is not today and we need
13 energy to get us to that day when we are controlling all
14 those gases.

15 Finally, we need to build
16 gasification plants now. We have a -- even if you approve
17 this permit on February 11th, which you won't, but when you
18 do approve this permit, it's going to be three to four
19 years before this plant's up and running.

20 This country needs low-cost natural
21 gas. This country needs low-cost energy. This country
22 needs low-cost oil. All of these are products that are
23 going to come from gasifying coal, clean-coal technology,
24 controlling for the emissions in an environmentally safe

1 and friendly way.

2 Therefore, it's doubtful that you
3 will hear anything here tonight or learn anything during
4 the public-comment period to change your initial review and
5 result. But this project will exceed all the required
6 emission standards. You've made that initial judgment.

7 I urge you to issue the construction
8 permit as soon as possible after the comment period ends on
9 February 10th. Thank you for the opportunity.

10 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Mr. Gonet, just for
11 clarity of the record, there were a couple times when you
12 said that the project will exceed the emission limits.

13 MR. GONET: I mean that it will be less
14 than what is the limit, that they will emit less than
15 that. When I say exceed the limits, that was my --

16 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you for the
17 clarification.

18 MR. ROMAINE: Also another clarification
19 as well. This is for the audience.

20 At this point the project before us
21 is for an integrated gasification power plant. If the
22 Taylorville Energy Center decided to get involved with
23 polygeneration, it would have to apply to us for a new
24 revised permit.

1 That is not a subject of the current
2 proceeding before us.

3 MR. GONET: Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 HEARING OFFICER KIM: The next speaker
6 is Angela Tin with the American Lung Association of
7 Illinois.

8 MS. TIN: Good evening. My name is
9 Angela Tin, T-i-n. And I'm Director of Environmental
10 Programs for the American Lung Association of Illinois.

11 By way of background, I have spent
12 22 years with the Illinois EPA and I worked in the water,
13 land, and air programs. So I'm certainly familiar with the
14 permitting and compliance issues that are required from
15 facilities.

16 The American Lung Association of
17 Illinois is a part of the American Lung Association of the
18 Upper Midwest. And we serve Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota,
19 Wisconsin, North and South Dakota.

20 Our mission is to protect lung
21 health and promote programs that enhance air quality. We
22 are entirely nonprofit and are over a hundred years old and
23 was formally known as the Tuberculosis Association. You
24 may know us as the Christmas Seal Association also.

1 We look forward to working together
2 in this community with the Illinois EPA and the Christian
3 County Generation facility on this construction permit.

4 We encourage Christian County to go
5 beyond the permitting and compliance requirements set in
6 their permits to meet the ALA commission.

7 Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER KIM: The next speaker is
9 Evan Sink with the United Mine Workers Association.

10 MR. SINK: Hello. My name is Ed Sink.
11 I'm coal-industry liaison for the United Mine Workers of
12 America. I am here in support of this project coming to
13 this area.

14 I know that some of you remember the
15 good paying jobs the coal industry provided in this area.
16 In 1951 there were 4,126 coal miners working in six coal
17 mines in the area.

18 After a change in coal demand by
19 1958, there was only one mine that was running with
20 751 employees. In the '60s employment flew up to
21 800 plus. And by 1970, there was 965 employees working.

22 This mine was Mine Number 10 in
23 Pawnee. Just little bit of history just to show you how
24 the coal industry has changed over the years.

1 I feel it is important for all
2 families in this area to support the technology that is
3 going to produce electricity with the possibility of
4 producing synthetic natural gas also when coal production
5 is utilized.

6 In looking at the whole project,
7 what really excites me as a father and a grandfather is the
8 fact that we have the possibility of producing electricity
9 that are being produced with emissions that are measured in
10 parts per million and parts per billion instead of
11 measuring in metric tons as we have grown accustomed to in
12 old coal-fired power plants.

13 It's time to move forward with new
14 clean-coal technology. It's time we cleaned up our
15 environment for our children and our grandchildren. And
16 the wonderful thing is now we have the technology to do so
17 and create jobs for them also. Not just jobs, but good
18 paying jobs, jobs with benefits, jobs they can raise a
19 family on.

20 At a thousand construction jobs and
21 200-plus permanent jobs, this facility will have a great
22 impact on the whole area. And at a rate of 3 to 4 to 1,
23 the indirect employment outside the facility will have
24 another great impact on the area.

1 I'm excited for the people of
2 Christian County and the surrounding counties. And I thank
3 you for the opportunity to speak in support of this
4 project.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause)

7 HEARING OFFICER KIM: The next speaker is
8 Shad Eatchason with IBW Local 146.

9 MR. ETCHASON: Good evening. My name is
10 Shad, S-h-a-d, Etchason, E-t-c-h-a-s-o-n. I'm assistant
11 business manager with the IBW Local 146 and also Decatur
12 Building and Trades.

13 I'm going to be very brief because I
14 know my friend Mike Zahn will speak, as is Jim Flemming. We
15 just want to go on the record in support of the project and
16 urge you to move forward.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 HEARING OFFICER KIM: The next speaker is
20 Jim Flemming.

21 MR. FLEMMING: Good evening. My name is
22 Jim Flemming, F-l-e-m-m-i-n-g. I'm the business manager
23 for the Plumbers and Steam Fitters Refrigeration
24 Local 137. I'm also president of the Building Trades,

1 Central Illinois Building Trades.

2 We want to first of all thank the
3 Aurora group, mayor of Taylorville, and Senator Demozio
4 which has helped us bring this project this far. We
5 appreciate their help.

6 Like to thank the Aurora group. And
7 I'll tell you what, the Aurora group has showed good faith
8 so far. They've signed a PLA for this. This is a way of
9 good jobs, good benefits.

10 And this job is going to be
11 outstanding for the community of Taylorville, Christian
12 County. And it will bring tons and tons of work for this
13 place.

14 After talking with the Aurora group,
15 there's also by-products that come out of this that's going
16 to be more and more and more work for the people of
17 Christian County.

18 Also, the coal miners, as the
19 gentleman just said before me, they need the work. We need
20 to get these things going. We need to get our coal
21 industry back on the road.

22 We need our building trades, we need
23 to work. We're here to help any way we can with the Aurora
24 group. And we appreciate you coming, gentlemen.

1 Thank you, guys.

2 (Applause.)

3 HEARING OFFICER KIM: The next speaker
4 is Mike Zahn.

5 MR. ZAHN: Good evening. My name is
6 Mike Zahn, spelled Z-a-h-n.

7 I'm a business manager of the
8 Operating Engineers Local 965 here in Central Illinois. We
9 cover the majority of Central Illinois.

10 And I am here tonight in support of
11 the Christian County Generation plant because I believe
12 this plant is a win-win-win-win situation for the state of
13 Illinois.

14 The construction of this plant will
15 provide Central Illinois with the reliable and sufficient
16 supply of electricity for many years to come at a
17 reasonable cost while at the same time ensure a clean
18 environment for our children to grow in.

19 The technology proposed by the
20 Aurora group is far more environmentally friendly than any
21 existing power plant in all of Central Illinois today.

22 In addition to using the cleanest
23 tested technology available, the plant owners have designed
24 this plant for easy modification when newer technology

1 becomes available. The completion of this project will
2 bring a reliable energy supply, power at a reasonable cost,
3 and a clean environment.

4 Furthermore, it will create a major
5 boon to the economy of Taylorville, Christian County, and
6 Central Illinois.

7 By approving this air-quality
8 permit, the construction and completion of this power plant
9 will reap many benefits both directly and indirectly.

10 The immediate economic impact of
11 the proposed power plant and associated projects will be
12 well over \$1 billion upon completion. During the
13 construction of the power plant, over 1,000 construction
14 workers will be employed.

15 These jobs will result in
16 construction employee compensation and wages and benefits
17 of over \$443 million.

18 In addition to the construction
19 jobs, the construction of this power plant would create an
20 additional several hundred indirect jobs in the Central
21 Illinois economy with an estimate compensation of an
22 additional over \$200 million.

23 The construction of a power plant
24 here in Taylorville will be -- will have a combined direct

1 and indirect impact of \$1.6 billion in economic activity in
2 Central Illinois.

3 The end result of construction of
4 this power plant will increase the wealth of the Central
5 Illinois community by almost \$835,000.

6 Once the construction is complete,
7 the power plant will directly employ approximately 200
8 full-time and part-time employees. These jobs will
9 generate an estimated employee compensation in wages and
10 benefits of over \$16.6 million annually.

11 In addition to the direct employees
12 of the power plant, indirect employment of an additional
13 200 workers will also be created in the county with an
14 annual compensation of well over \$8 million.

15 The presence of a power plant in
16 Taylorville will generate over 103 million in economic
17 activity here in Central Illinois annually. The economy of
18 Central Illinois has been sluggish the last several years.

19 Some may even argue that the Central
20 Illinois economy has been depressed. This power plant will
21 be the economic catalyst to kick-start our economy and
22 create the jobs our citizens need.

23 In closing, I would like to state
24 that I consider myself an environmentalist. And I believe

1 the technology proposed for this power plant more than
2 adequately safeguards the environment.

3 In addition, it will provide a
4 reliable energy source at a reasonable cost and a major
5 economic boost to Taylorville, Christian County, and all of
6 Central Illinois.

7 Therefore, I urge that the EPA
8 support this project by granting the air permit so the
9 process may begin on this win-win situation.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 HEARING OFFICER KIM: The next and, based
13 on registration cards that I received, the last person
14 who's indicated that they would like to speak tonight --
15 and I apologize if I misstate this -- is Dale Ferguson.

16 And if anybody else does wish to
17 make any comments after Mr. Ferguson --

18 Well, that being the case, are there
19 any other members of the public that would like to make a
20 comment?

21 MS. OWEN: I just had a quick question.
22 Something that was said that triggered this question.

23 The gas, could they just sell it on
24 the open market for customers to use at home?

1 MR. ROMAINE: My understanding is they
2 could not because the syngas is not interchangeable with
3 natural gas.

4 MS. OWEN: I'm not sure what
5 interchangeable means.

6 MR. ROMAINE: Natural gas can heat
7 approximately a thousand BTU per cubic foot. A syngas with
8 50 BTU would not function as a substitute for natural gas.

9 MS. OWEN: Okay. Thank you.

10 MR. SMET: It also depends on what --

11 MS. OWEN: It's the syngas in the mine,
12 so I don't know.

13 MR. SMET: 'Cause the term of syngas that
14 is developed in the gasification process isn't similar to
15 natural gas.

16 And so you still have to make a
17 clean high quality natural gas. So syngas and natural gas
18 aren't necessarily synonymous. You don't want to think of
19 them as close until they kind of treated the syngas and
20 cleaned it up.

21 MS. OWEN: Okay. Thank you very much.

22 MS. BLUMENSHINE: Thank you very much,
23 gentlemen.

24 I did want to ask if it's typical in

1 your experience for a power plant to have about a 14-day
2 storage for the coal for that facility, which I believe is
3 what this plant has stated?

4 MR. ROMAINE: I don't have detailed
5 information on the duration of coal storage. The power
6 plants have -- 14 days would seem like a very nominal
7 amount of storage.

8 I would expect that some power
9 plants sometimes have storage far in excess of that.

10 MS. BLUMENSHINE: And by nominal, could
11 you just explain that? I'm sorry.

12 MR. ROMAINE: Well, power plants want to
13 make sure they continue to operate if there's interruption
14 of coal supply for whatever reason. Having two weeks of
15 fuel on hand at the plant provides a reasonable reserve for
16 any typical interruption of fuel supply.

17 MS. BLUMENSHINE: And last part, it's my
18 understanding -- what would be the significance of perhaps
19 a shorter storage area for a time frame for that than
20 compared to other plants?

21 Is there an air significance to
22 that?

23 MR. ROMAINE: There would not be an air
24 significance to that. The air significance is determined

1 by the amount of coal, not by the duration of storage.

2 MS. BLUMENSHINE: Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Is there anybody
4 else that would like to make a comment?

5 Yes.

6 MR. BUTLER: Thank you.

7 My name Gary Butler and I work for
8 the United Mine Workers in Springfield, Illinois.

9 I'm familiar with a lot of the
10 people with the Peabody operation, the Freeman coal mine
11 operation, Monterey operation, all these coal mines around
12 here.

13 I've been an underground coal mine
14 -- my name's Butler, B-u-t-l-e-r, with the UMWA.

15 I'm familiar with a lot of these
16 people. I've dealt with a lot of the folks over here who
17 are retired. And I applaude the proposed plant that's
18 going to be built here.

19 It's going to be a
20 super-energy-efficient plant. It seems to be a very
21 environmentally effective plant. There's been some people
22 come up here today, some labor leaders talk to you about
23 this group what they're calling PLAs.

24 Those are Project Labor Agreements

1 that basically say this company has committed to come in
2 and build these plants. Union pay, good wages and benefits
3 to get this plant built.

4 And I applaude the group for that.
5 To date no coal company has desired to talk with United
6 Mine Workers as far as the mining of this coal. And to
7 date we fight with these coal companies.

8 There's retirees in this crowd --
9 over retiree health care, wages, safety of these mines.
10 And anybody that's read a paper the last year or so has
11 seen the number of people killed in these mines because
12 nonunion operators refuse to follow the safety rules.

13 And I suggest to you that part of
14 this plant these coal companies that are going to be
15 supplying this coal have an obligation.

16 And we're sitting here. The mine
17 workers are ready and able to sit down and talk with you
18 people and get the same accommodation that these trade
19 laborers got over these project labor agreements.

20 Some of these coal officials are in
21 this room today. And it's time for them to provide that
22 same benefit to the coal miners that this group has
23 provided construction group.

24 Thank you for your time

1 (Applause.)

2 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Is there anyone
3 else that would like to make a comment?

4 Seeing no one else, I'd first like
5 to note -- and I did not mention this at the -- in my
6 opening statements, that we will be marking certain
7 documents as exhibits that will be going into the official
8 record.

9 Exhibit Number 1 we will mark is the
10 notice of the public hearing. Exhibit Number 2 will be a
11 copy of the project summary, and Exhibit Number 3 will be a
12 copy of the draft permit.

13 (Exhibits Numbers 1, 2, and 3
14 were marked for identification.)

15 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Seeing that there
16 are no more members of the public with questions or
17 comments, we will bring this hearing to a close. I would
18 like to again remind everyone that the comment period for
19 the record in this matter closes on February 10, 2007.

20 So any written comments must be
21 postmarked before midnight on February 10th to be accepted
22 as part of the record. Copies of the exhibits are
23 available upon request.

24 The time is now approximately 8:30

1 and this hearing is adjourned. Thank you very much for
2 coming.

3 (The hearing was adjourned
4 at 8:30 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

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2
3 I, JAMI C. TEPKER, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
4 do certify that the foregoing is a correct transcription
5 from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled
6 matter.



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Jami Tepker

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