

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Notice of Comment Period and Public Hearing
Concerning the Proposed Issuance of a Construction Permit/PSD Approval
to Power Holdings of Illinois, LLC
for a Synthetic Natural Gas Plant
in Blissville Township, Jefferson County

Power Holdings of Illinois, LLC, 2112 West Galena Boulevard, Aurora, Illinois, 60506, has applied for a permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to construct a synthetic natural gas plant five miles south of Illinois Route 15 on Tomahawk Lane, west of Waltonville in Blissville Township, Jefferson County. The proposed plant is designed to use gasification technology to convert coal into synthetic natural gas.

The proposed plant is considered a major new source for emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and sulfuric acid mist under the federal rules for Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), 40 CFR 52.21, as emissions of these pollutants would be above the significant emission thresholds established in 40 CFR 52.21.

Based on its review of the application, the Illinois EPA has made a preliminary determination that this project is entitled to a construction permit. The Illinois EPA is holding a public comment period and a hearing to accept comments from the public on the proposed issuance of a permit for this project, prior to making a final decision on the application.

The Illinois EPA Bureau of Air will hold a public hearing on March 3, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus, 130 South Eighth Street in DuBois, IL. The hearing will be held to receive comments and answer questions from the public prior to making a final decision concerning the application. The hearing will be held under the Illinois EPA's "Procedures for Permit and Closure Plans," 35 IAC 166, Subpart A. Lengthy comments and questions should be submitted in writing. Requests for interpreters (including sign language) must be made by February 16, 2009. Any questions about hearing procedures or requests to address special needs should be made to the Illinois EPA, Rachel Doctors - Hearing Officer, Re: Power Holdings, 1021 N. Grand Ave. E., P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276, 217/782-5544.

Written comments must sent to the Hearing Officer and be postmarked by midnight, April 2, 2009, unless otherwise specified by the Hearing Officer. Written comments need not be notarized.

Persons wanting more information may obtain copies of the draft permit and project summary at www.epa.gov/region5/air/permits/ilonline.htm (please look under All Permit Records, PSD, New). These documents and the application can also be viewed at the C.E. Brehm Library, 2nd Floor Reference Desk, 101 S. 7th Street, Mt. Vernon, and the Illinois EPA's offices at 2309 W. Main, Marion, 618/993-7200 and 1340 N. Ninth St., Springfield, 217/782-7027 (for either Illinois EPA location please call ahead to assure that someone will be available to assist you).

For information or requests about the application or draft permit, please contact:
Brad Frost, Community Relations, Illinois EPA, 1021 N. Grand Ave. E., P.O. Box 19506,
Springfield, IL 62794-9506, 217/782-2113 or 217/782-9143 TDD.

As a major project for SO₂, NO_x, CO, particulate matter, and sulfuric acid mist, the plant's emissions of these pollutants must be controlled with Best Available Control Technology (BACT) under the PSD rules. The measures proposed by Power Holdings as BACT for the gasification block include various cleanup systems for the raw syngas, thermal oxidizers, flares and a flaring minimization plan, and good working practices and good air pollution control practices. For the superheaters and auxiliary boiler, good combustion practices, low NO_x burners and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) or flue gas recirculation are proposed as BACT. For the sulfuric acid plants, hydrogen peroxide scrubbing and SCR are proposed as BACT. The Illinois EPA's initial review concludes that these measures and other control measures proposed for various operations at the plant will provide BACT.

The air quality analysis submitted by Power Holdings shows that the modeled impacts from the proposed plant are not above the significant air quality impact levels under the PSD rules. Power Holdings has also evaluated the impact of the proposed plant on the Class I Wilderness Areas at the Mingo Wildlife Refuge and Mammoth Cave, which are located approximately 160 kilometers southwest and 277 kilometers southeast, respectively, of the proposed plant. This analysis shows that the plant will not violate the Class I air quality increments applicable in these areas.