

Public Notice
Proposed Issuance of a Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permit
and Notice of Public Hearing for
Corn Belt Energy Corporation, Elkhart

Corn Belt Energy Corporation, 1502 Morrissey Drive in Bloomington, Illinois has requested a construction permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to build the Prairie Energy Power Plant Mine Mouth Project, a coal fired power plant at a site located on Elkhart Mine Road near Elkhart. The power plant would consist of a boiler, coal handling and storage, ash handling and storage, limestone handling and storage, and a cooling tower to generate up to 91 MW of electricity. The project would be a major source of air emissions pursuant to the federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration rules (40 CFR52.21). The Illinois EPA is accepting comments on the proposed permit.

The Illinois EPA will hold a public hearing on August 1, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the Elkhart Elementary School, 206 North Gillette in Elkhart. The hearing will be held by the Illinois EPA to receive comments and data and to answer questions from the public prior to making a final decision concerning the permit. Lengthy comments and questions should be submitted to the Illinois EPA in writing. Written comments must be postmarked by midnight, August 31, 2002, unless otherwise specified by the hearing officer at the time of the hearing. Comments need not be notarized and should be sent to the Illinois EPA Hearing Officer, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276.

The proposed project will be a major source of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), particulate matter, carbon monoxide (CO), and hazardous air pollutants (HAP). The project is located in an area that is attainment for these emissions and is therefore subject to the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) rules. The company has proposed that good combustion practices including low NO_x burners, and staged combustion, or other secondary NO_x control technology, selective catalytic reduction (SCR), wet scrubber with limestone injection, and the use of an electrostatic precipitator (ESP) constitutes Best Available Control Technology (BACT).

The analysis of air quality impacts from this project is required by the PSD rules. The modeling indicates that there will not be a significant impact from the sources for the nitrogen oxides (NO_x), particulate matter (PM), or carbon monoxide (CO) standards. Sulfur dioxide impacts were above significant impact levels but below National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The amount of air quality impact for sulfur dioxide including the power plant, current ambient levels and existing sources is projected to be 280.2 micrograms per cubic meter compared to a NAAQS of 365 micrograms per cubic meter for the 24-hour average, 774.2 micrograms per cubic meter compared to a NAAQS of 1,300 micrograms per cubic meter for the 3-hours standard, and 24.6 micrograms per cubic meter compared to a NAAQS of 80 micrograms per cubic meter for the annual standard.

Persons wanting more information may review the Illinois EPA's project summary and draft permit at www.epa.gov/region5/air/permits/ilonline.htm (please look for the documents under All Permit Records, PSD, New). These documents along with the application may also be reviewed at the Elkhart Public Library, 121 East Bohan in Elkhart and the Illinois EPA's office at 1340 North Ninth St., Springfield, 217/782-7027 (please call ahead to assure that someone will be available to assist you). Copies of the documents will be made available upon request.

For information or requests concerning application or draft permit, please contact:

Brad Frost, Community Relations Coordinator

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

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217/782-2113, 217/782-9143 TDD