

Public Notice
Proposed Issuance of a Construction Permit to
Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc. in Pekin

Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc. (Aventine) has applied for a construction permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to expand fuel ethanol production at its complex at 1300 S. Second St. in Pekin. The project involves construction of a “stand-alone” plant that would use natural gas as its fuel and have a nominal capacity of 56.5 million gallons of ethanol per year. The plant would also produce dry animal feed as a byproduct from the fermentation process. The corn for the plant and the fuel ethanol from the plant would be handled in the existing elevator and other permitted equipment already at the complex.

The proposed project qualifies as a major modification under the federal rules for Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), 40 CFR 52.21, for emissions of volatile organic material (VOM), particulate matter (PM) and nitrogen oxides, with permitted emissions that would be approximately 120, 50 and 55 tons/year, respectively.

Under the PSD rules, Aventine must use Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for emissions of VOM, PM, and NO_x from the new plant. Emissions will be controlled by a variety of measures, including equipment features, work practices, and add-on control devices, that the Illinois EPA proposes to deem BACT. In particular, high-efficiency scrubbers will control the fermentation process (VOM emissions). An afterburner will control the distillation and feed drying processes (VOM and PM emissions). Low-NO_x burners will control the combustion of natural gas in the feed dryers and afterburner (NO_x emissions).

The air quality impact analyses prepared pursuant to the PSD rules for this project indicate that it will not cause a violation of the PM or NO_x air quality standards or PSD increments. For NO_x, the predicted peak impact of the project is not significant, i.e., at most 0.44 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) annually compared to the standard of 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. For PM, the project's peak impacts are at most 6.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ annual average and 38.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 24-hour average, compared to the standards for PM₁₀ of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, respectively. The total consumption of PM₁₀ increment predicted from this project and other increment consuming source is at most 7.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ annual and 29.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 24 hour, compared to the PM₁₀ increments of 17 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ respectively.

Based on its review of the permit application, the Illinois EPA has made a preliminary determination that this project is entitled to a construction permit. **The Illinois EPA is accepting comments prior to making a final decision on the application for this project. Comments must be postmarked by midnight October 24, 2005.** If sufficient interest is expressed in this matter, a hearing may be held. Comments, questions and requests for information, should be directed to Brad Frost, Air Pollution Control, Illinois

EPA, P. O. Box 19506, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9506, phone 217/782-2113, TDD 217/782-9143.

Persons wanting more information may view 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 may also be viewed at the Illinois EPA's offices at 5415 N. University St. in Peoria, 309/693-5461 and 1340 N. 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.