

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Public Notice

Proposed Revision of the Construction Permit/PSD Approval for
Duke Energy Lee, LLC in South Dixon Township, Lee County

Duke Energy Lee, LLC has applied to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) for a revision to the construction permit for its electrical generation facility located on Nachusa Road in Lee County. The revision would allow the turbines to operate for additional time in low load configuration in conjunction with the “Black Start Capability”. Black Start capability is the ability of a power plant to start operation during a power blackout, relying solely on its own resources without using electricity from the grid. This ability was not included in the original design and construction of this facility in 2002 and 2003. Duke’s request must be processed as a revision to the original construction permit for the facility, which was issued under the federal rules for Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), 40 CFR 52.21 because that permit restricts the extent of low load operation.

Based on its review of Duke Energy’s application, the Illinois EPA has made a preliminary determination that Duke is entitled to a revised construction permit. **The Illinois EPA is accepting comments prior to making a final decision on the application. Comments must be postmarked by midnight June 12, 2006.** 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, Bureau of Air, Illinois EPA, P. O. Box 19506, Springfield, IL 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, Revision). These documents and the application may also be viewed at the Illinois EPA’s offices at 12 Gunia Drive in LaSalle, 815/223-1344 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.

Duke Energy evaluated the implications of low load operation of the turbines, as requested by the Illinois EPA, on the determination of Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for the turbines. After reviewing the submission, Illinois EPA has determined that this change should not affect the BACT determination for the facility and that the use of dry low-NO_x combustors and good air pollution control practices still represent BACT for the turbines.

As part of PSD review for the original construction permit application, an ambient air quality analysis was submitted by Duke Energy, which showed that the permitted emissions from the source would not cause or contribute to a violation of the applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) or PSD increment. The revision request addressed the implications of extended low-load operation on the initial air

quality analysis. The supplemental analysis shows that the facility will still have an insignificant impact on ambient air quality.