

1 PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF A STATE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT  
AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR  
2 MEP INVESTMENTS, LLC  
3 PIATT COUNTY  
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10 HEARING  
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12 Public hearing held on the proposed  
13 issuance of a State construction permit for MEP  
14 Investments, LLC, at the Monticello Municipal  
15 Building, 201 North Hamilton, Monticello,  
16 Illinois, at 6:00 P.M. on the 20th day of June,  
17 2001, before Debra L. Brehm, CSR in and for the  
18 State of Illinois, CSR License No. 84-002690.  
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1                   (Whereupon the hearing commenced at 6:00  
2                   P.M.)

3                   HEARING OFFICER SELTZER: We will get  
4 started now, folks. Can you all hear me?  
5 Gentlemen? Can you hear me back there?

6                   Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My  
7 name is Bill Seltzer. I am an attorney with the  
8 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. This is  
9 a hearing in regard to the proposed issuance of a  
10 State construction permit for MEP Investments,  
11 LLC, Piatt County.

12                  They are asking this agency to issue a  
13 construction permit to construct a natural gas  
14 fired electric power plant. With me this evening  
15 are a number of representatives from the IEPA.  
16 I'm going to have them introduce themselves. I  
17 understand this evening we have representatives  
18 from the applicant here. I will ask them to  
19 introduce themselves. After that the Illinois EPA  
20 will make a short presentation. If in fact the  
21 applicant wishes to, they can make a presentation,  
22 and then we will go to the audience to see if any  
23 of the folks here this evening have any questions  
24 or comments regarding this process or the proposed

1 issuance of the permit that's been requested.

2           Everybody should have signed a  
3 registration card when they came in. The  
4 registration cards will indicate whether or not  
5 you wish to make any comments or ask questions.  
6 But also at the end of the entire process, there  
7 will be a summary prepared and everybody that has  
8 signed a card and given us your address will get a  
9 copy of the summary when the agency issues the  
10 summary.

11           The record in this matter will stay open  
12 through July 20 of this year. That means that any  
13 written comments that are postmarked up to  
14 midnight of July 20 of this year will become part  
15 of the official record of these proceedings.

16           The record of the proceedings include  
17 all the material that the applicant has sent into  
18 the agency, any written comments the agency has  
19 received from the time notice has been published  
20 or issued, the transcript of this proceeding and  
21 everything that will take place tonight, and then  
22 all the written comments that will be submitted,  
23 if any are submitted, before midnight of July 20.

24           Before we go any farther, if there's

1 anybody that has any questions as to how we  
2 proceed tonight, please raise your hand. There  
3 are none.

4 We will start now by asking the  
5 representatives from the IEPA to introduce  
6 themselves.

7 MR. ROMAINE: I am Chris Romaine. I am  
8 with the utility unit in the Air Permit Section of  
9 the agency.

10 MR. BENOFAAMIL: I am Youra Benofamil. I  
11 am the permit engineer in the same section. I  
12 work for Mr. Romaine.

13 MR. FROST: I am Brad Frost. I am in  
14 the office of community relations. And I work  
15 primarily with Youra Benofamil.

16 HEARING OFFICER SELTZER: Thank you.  
17 Would the representatives from the applicant here  
18 this evening stand up and identify themselves,  
19 please? And their position with the applicant.

20 MR. SHANKLIN: My name is Robert  
21 Shanklin. I'm with Aquila Energy. Also with MEP  
22 Investments, LLC. I'm the project manager for the  
23 proposed peaking facility of the application I  
24 have in front of you. Thank you.

1                   MR. BAUER: I'm Jerry Bauer with Burns  
2 and McDonnell. I'm an environmental engineer and  
3 work with Aquila to help them pursue the  
4 permitting process.

5                   HEARING OFFICER SELTZER: Thank you.  
6 Anyone else?

7                   At this time the agency will make its  
8 brief opening remarks.

9                   MR. BENOFAMIL: Thank you all for coming  
10 this evening. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.  
11 I am Youra Benofamil. I am a Permit Engineer in  
12 Bureau of Air. I would like to present to you a  
13 brief description of the project.

14                   MEP Investments, LLC has requested a  
15 construction permit for an electric power plant in  
16 Piatt County. The project would be located south  
17 of Highway 10, east of DeLand and west of Lodge,  
18 approximately five miles north of Monticello.

19                   The proposed facility is designed to  
20 function as a peaking power station to generate  
21 electricity in peak demand periods and at other  
22 times when other power plants are not available  
23 due to scheduled or unexpected outages. Operation  
24 of the facility may occur throughout the year,

1 although the facility is expected to run primarily  
2 in the summer months.

3           The proposed facility would use up to  
4 six combustion turbines to generate up to about  
5 570 megawatts of electricity. Each turbine will  
6 have a nominal capacity of about 95 megawatts. A  
7 generator connected to the shaft of each turbine  
8 produces electrical power.

9           The facility will only burn natural gas,  
10 which is the cleanest commercially available fuel.  
11 Natural gas does not contain significant amounts  
12 of sulfur or ash, as present in oil and coal.

13           The principal air contaminants emitted  
14 from the turbines would be nitrogen oxide and  
15 carbon monoxide. Nitrogen oxide is formed when  
16 nitrogen and oxygen in the atmosphere combine  
17 during the high temperature of combustion. The  
18 nitrogen oxide emissions from all the proposed  
19 turbines will be controlled with modern  
20 combustors. The application indicates maximum  
21 nitrogen oxide emissions of 15 parts per million,  
22 on hourly basis from all the turbines.

23           Carbon monoxide is formed by the

24 complete combustion of fuel. Carbon monoxide is

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1 associated with most combustion processes and is  
2 found in measurable amounts in turbine exhaust.  
3 Volatile organic material and particulate matter  
4 are also emitted as a result of incomplete  
5 combustion. Emissions of these pollutants would  
6 also be minimized by the modern combustors with  
7 which the turbines would be equipped. Sulfur  
8 dioxide is found only in small amounts from  
9 combustion of natural gas.

10           The project is not considered a major  
11 source because the permitted emission of  
12 pollutants from this facility would be less than  
13 the major source threshold. For projects that are  
14 not major, an air quality study is not required by  
15 applicable rules. However, MEP Investments, LLC  
16 has performed an air quality study to determine  
17 the air quality impacts from the project for  
18 criteria pollutants other than ozone.

19           The analysis shows that the proposed  
20 facility would not significantly affect ambient  
21 air quality in the vicinity of the facility. This  
22 is consistent with Illinois EPA's experience with  
23 other new natural gas fired power plants.

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In summary, the Illinois EPA has

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1 reviewed the materials submitted by MEP  
2 Investments, LLC and has determined that the  
3 application for the project shows that it will  
4 comply with applicable state and federal  
5 standards.

6 We have prepared a draft permit for  
7 construction of this power plant that sets out the  
8 conditions that we propose to place on the  
9 facility to assure continuing compliance.

10 In closing, we welcome any comments or  
11 questions on our proposed action. Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER SELTZER: Thank you.  
13 Does the applicant wish to make any presentations  
14 before we go to the public for comments and  
15 questions?

16 MR. SHANKLIN: The only thing I would  
17 like to say --

18 HEARING OFFICER SELTZER: Identify  
19 yourself.

20 MR. SHANKLIN: I'm Robert Shanklin with  
21 MEP Investments. If there is anything that is  
22 outside of the scope of this meeting that anybody

23 would like to discuss, I will be here after the  
24 meeting and we can take those on an individual

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1 basis outside the scope of this meeting. Thank  
2 you.

3 HEARING OFFICER SELTZER: Thank you. I  
4 understand that nobody indicated on the cards that  
5 they wished to make any comments or ask any  
6 questions, but I will ask before we adjourn if  
7 there is anybody here that does have any comments  
8 or questions?

9 Yes, ma'am? Would you please stand up  
10 and identify yourself and spell your name for the  
11 record?

12 MS. PARKER: Mary Parker. I live in  
13 Lodge. And I have asthma real bad and I just  
14 wondered, how is that going to affect me? You  
15 know, how is the air going to be? I mean, it's  
16 bad now because of the elevator. But is this  
17 going to make it worse?

18 MR. ROMAINE: The air quality map  
19 accompanying the application shows that the air  
20 quality will not significantly change with this  
21 project. This project is not associated with  
22 causing dust.

23 MS. PARKER: Well, the humidity bothers  
24 me. And is this going to bother the air with the

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1 release of the water?

2 MR. ROMAINE: Our experience is that the  
3 additional humidity given from power plants  
4 doesn't affect the overall humidity. It's a very  
5 small contribution compared to the general  
6 background levels of humidity in the air.

7 These type of turbines have excellent  
8 dispersion. As Youra said, the emissions coming  
9 out of the stack are very low levels. They burn  
10 only natural gas, which is a clean fuel. Plus,  
11 then concentrations are further distributed. So  
12 we don't expect any change in air quality that  
13 will be noticeable as a result of this project.

14 HEARING OFFICER SELTZER: Is there  
15 anybody else that has any comments or questions?

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have one, but maybe  
17 this is not the place to bring it up.

18 THE COURT: Would you identify yourself?

19 MR. BAKER: Paul Baker. I live over in  
20 Sangamon. My question is about this well water  
21 situation. Has that already been settled? I

22 understand that the board okayed the request by  
23 MEP to reduce the number of miles that they are --  
24 radius, ten miles -- that the company is

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1 responsible for if they draw too much water and  
2 start causing the wells to go dry in some areas.

3           And the approval supposedly was  
4 originally ten miles and now it's been down to two  
5 and a half. I want to know why. And maybe this  
6 is not the place to bring it up. You were talking  
7 about particulates and things like that. I don't  
8 know if this even falls under EPA.

9           HEARING OFFICER SELTZER: Well, you're  
10 correct in that the matters that you are curious  
11 about are not relevant to the criteria that the  
12 agency has to look at when it makes its decision  
13 to issue or not issue a permit or to issue a  
14 permit with special conditions.

15           But you did raise a question. And the  
16 people here from the applicant indicated that they  
17 would remain after the hearing and answer  
18 questions. And that may be a very appropriate  
19 question to pose to them and they can try and  
20 respond to you.

21           Is there anybody else here this evening

22 that has any questions or comments?

23                   Indicate for the record that nobody else  
24 seems to have any questions or comments. I wish

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1 to reiterate that this record will stay open  
2 through midnight of July 20 and you can send any  
3 written comments or questions in to the agency, as  
4 long as it is postmarked by midnight of July 20 of  
5 this year.

6                   Normally we have sheets here, and I  
7 apologize, I didn't bring any with, that you can  
8 use to send in your written comments. The  
9 comments can be sent to the address in the notice  
10 of this hearing. And the notice of this hearing  
11 gives Mr. Brad Frost's name and the comments  
12 therefor can be sent to either Brad Frost at the  
13 address in the notice, or to myself, Bill Seltzer,  
14 at the same address that was in the notice.

15                   I want to thank you all for your  
16 participation and I hope you have a good, safe  
17 trip home everybody. Thank you.

18                   (Whereupon the hearing concluded at 6:20  
19 P.M.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 ) SS  
2 COUNTY OF MACON )

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4 I, DEBRA L. BREHM, CSR in and for the State  
5 of Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
6 hearing was held on the 20th day of June, 2001.

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8 That said hearing was taken down in  
9 stenograph notes, afterwards reduced to  
10 typewriting by me, and is a true and accurate  
11 transcription of the proceedings.

12

13 I do hereby certify that I am a disinterested  
14 person in this cause of action; that I am not a  
15 relative of any party or any attorney of record in  
16 this cause, or an attorney for any party herein,  
17 or otherwise interested in the event of this  
18 action, and am not in the employ of any of the  
19 parties.

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21 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
22 hand this 21st day of June, 2001.

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DEBRA L. BREHM, CSR

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