

**Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period
Proposed Issuance of a Construction Permit/PSD Approval to
Prairie State Generating Company, LLC**

Prairie State Generating Company, LLC, 701 Market Street, Suite 781 in St. Louis, Missouri, has requested a permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (Illinois EPA) Bureau of Air to construct a new coal-fired power plant on Marigold Road, off of Washington County Highway 12 approximately 5 miles east northeast of Marissa. The plant would have two coal-fired boilers for a total capacity of about 1500 MW of electricity (net output). As a source of emissions, the plant is required to have a permit from the Illinois EPA prior to beginning construction. The plant would be a major source of emissions pursuant to the federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration rules, 40 CFR 52.21. The Illinois EPA is accepting comments on the proposed permit.

The Illinois EPA's Bureau of Air will hold a public hearing on March 22, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Marissa High School, 300 School View Drive in Marissa. The hearing will be held to receive comments and answer questions from the public prior to making a final decision concerning the permit 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 March 8, 2004. Any questions about hearing procedures or requests to address special needs should be made to the Hearing Officer, Re: Prairie State Generating, Illinois EPA, 1021 N. Grand Ave. E., P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276, 217/782-5544.

Written comments must be sent to the Hearing Officer and be postmarked by midnight, April 21, 2004 unless otherwise specified by the Hearing Officer. Written comments need not be notarized.

The plant would be a major source of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic material (VOM), sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and particulate matter (PM). For these pollutants and other PSD pollutants emitted in significant amounts, the plant must use Best Available Control Technology (BACT). BACT for the coal boilers has been proposed as low-NO_x combustors and good combustion practices, accompanied by add-on selective catalytic reduction, electrostatic precipitation, flue gas desulfurization (scrubbing) and wet electrostatic precipitation. As USEPA has not yet adopted applicable rules for Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT), the plant is also subject to a case-by-case determination of MACT for emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), including mercury. The above measures would also provide effective control of the emissions of HAPs from the boilers.

Prairie State submitted air quality analyses to show that the proposed plant would not violate PSD increments or National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). NAAQS are standards for pollutant concentration in the air established by USEPA to be protective of public health and welfare. Increments are additional standards under the PSD rules

that protect air quality from significant deterioration. The analyses show that the plant would not have significant impacts for CO and NO₂. For the SO₂ and PM, the results of the increment analyses are provided below. The analyses also show that the proposed plant would not cause or significantly contribute to violations of the NAAQS.

Results of PSD Increment Analysis (microgram/cubic meter)

Pollutant Ave. Period	Class II Increment		Class I Increment*	
	Max. Consumed	Allowed	Max. Consumed	Allowed
SO ₂ 3-Hr	99.7	512	10.3	25
SO ₂ 24-Hr	15.2	91	4.1	5
PM ₁₀ 24-Hr	19.7	30	Insignificant	10
PM ₁₀ Annual	5.0	17	Insignificant	5

*Applicable in the Wilderness Area in the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Missouri.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has submitted information to the Illinois EPA for this hearing about the proposed plant's potential impacts on the Mingo Wilderness Area, including background information about the Mingo Wilderness Area and an analysis of the visibility modeling submitted for this area by Prairie State. These documents are available at the repositories listed below and are further addressed by the Illinois EPA in the project summary prepared for this application.

In conjunction with this permit, the Illinois EPA is also proposing to issue an Acid Rain Permit and a Budget Permit for the proposed plant, to address requirements under the federal Acid Rain program and Illinois's NO_x Trading program. Under the Acid Rain program, Prairie State's designated representative is currently Mr. Lars Scott.

Persons wanting more information may review the Illinois EPA's project summary and draft permit at www.epa.gov/region5/air/permits/ilonline.htm (under All Permit Records, PSD, New). These documents along with the application may also be reviewed at the Marissa Public Library, 212 N. Main St. in Marissa and the Illinois EPA's offices at 2009 Mall St. in Collinsville, 618/346-5120 and 1340 N. Ninth St., Springfield, 217/782-7027 (please call ahead to assure that someone will be able 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.