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Arch Coal plans Southern Illinois mine

Arch Coal Inc., the nation's second-largest coal producer, plans to invest as much as \$300 million in an underground mine in southern Illinois that could eventually employ 250 people. Creve Coeur-based Arch is working to secure permits for the Lost Prairie mine in northern Perry County, though the company doesn't have a timeline for completing the project.

"Full-scale mine development will not commence until there is proven market demand and sales commitments," spokeswoman Kim Link said.

Arch expects to produce 800,000 tons of coal in the first year of operation at the mine and increase production to 3.5 million tons within 5 years, according to a permit application filed with the Army Corps of Engineers.

The mine would occupy 440 acres of an 848-acre site northwest of Pinckneyville. The company said it may begin site preparation and road construction within a year.

Arch has 736 million tons of coal reserves in the Illinois Basin, a coal producing region that covers parts of southern Illinois and Indiana and western Kentucky.

The company has a minority stake in Knight Hawk Coal LLC, a southern Illinois coal producer. And in June, Arch acquired the Viper mine in Sangamon County through its \$3.4 billion purchase of International Coal Group Inc.

Clean air vote splits senators

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander from Tennessee breathed new life into a clean air rule Thursday, joining four Republicans in defeating a colleague's attempt to weaken EPA pollution rules.

Sen. Rand Paul, a Kentucky Republican, wanted to overturn a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rule limiting the amount of power-plant fumes that can blow from a state into bordering states.

The Senate defeated Paul's resolution 56-41.

In a statement, Alexander, a Republican, sought to appease tea party members who support Paul, calling the EPA "a happy hunting ground" for unreasonable regulations.

Electricity Pricing Areas – Nov 22, 2011

LMP Zone	Per kWh
Com Ed	\$.03025
PJM	\$.03502

ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Nov1-Nov 30, 2010	\$.02778
Dec 1 - Dec 31	\$.03545
Jan 1 -Jan 31, 2011	\$.03871
Feb 1 - Feb 28	\$.03581
March 1- Mar 31	\$.03668
April 1 - April 30	\$.03448
May1- May 31	\$.03954
June 1 - June 30	\$.03851
July 1 thru July 31	\$.05170
Aug 1 - Aug 31	\$.04064
Sep 1 - Sep 30	\$.03058
Oct 1- Oct31	\$.02968
Nov 1 thru Nov 21	\$.02928

Weather Today: Cloudy. Some light rain will fall throughout the day. High 44F. Winds NE at 15 to 25 mph. **Tonight:** Cloudy skies early, then partly cloudy after midnight. Low 39F. Winds NNW at 10 to 20 mph. **Wed:** Some clouds in the morning will give way to mainly sunny skies for the afternoon. High 48F. Winds WNW at 5 to 10 mph. **Thu:** Abundant sunshine. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the mid 40s. **Fri:** More clouds than sun. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the low 50s. **Sat:** Showers possible. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 40s.

