

Volume 270 January 24, 2012

### Coal plants dominate list of Chicago's biggest polluters

Fed by a steady stream of coal barges, the aging power plants that loom over Chicago's Little Village and Pilsen neighborhoods are by far the city's largest industrial sources of climate change pollution.

No other polluter comes close to the 4.2 million metric tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide churned into the atmosphere by the two coal plants in 2010, according to a new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency database that for the first time allows people to compare major industrial sources of greenhouse gases.

The city's next biggest source, a heating plant at the University of Illinois at Chicago, trailed far behind. It emitted 132,000 metric tons.

About 6,700 power plants, refineries, steel mills and other major polluters are required under a 2008 federal law to provide detailed annual reports on their emissions of carbon dioxide and five other heat-trapping gases that contribute to climate change. The first results highlight the nation's reliance on coal as an energy source and show why fossil fuel interests are lobbying fiercely to block federal and state efforts to limit the pollution.

Though burning oil and natural gas also releases greenhouse gases. Coal plants account for all but four of the top 10 emitters nationwide and more than 70 percent of emissions from big industrial sources, according to a Tribune analysis of the EPA data.

Two of the other four are steel mills in northwest Indiana -- the U.S. Steel Gary Works and an Arcelor Mittal plant in East Chicago -- that top the rankings in the broader Chicago metropolitan area. Others in the local top 10 include the BP refinery in Whiting and the Exxon Mobil refinery in Joliet.

Laws in Illinois and other states are requiring greater reliance on wind power and other renewable, pollution-free sources of energy. Yet the EPA data show how difficult it is to wean the U.S. from fossil fuels without a national policy, industry observers said.

### Electricity Pricing Areas – Jan 24, 2012 February

On-Peak	Per kWh
Cinergy	\$ .03050
PJM West	\$ .03853

### ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2011	\$ .03871
Feb 1 – Feb 28	\$ .03581
March 1- Mar 31	\$ .03668
April 1 – April 30	\$ .03448
May 1- 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- Oct 31	\$ .02968
Nov 1- Nov 30	\$ .02816
Dec 1 – Dec 31	\$ .02971
Jan 1 – Jan 23, 2012	\$ .03083

**Weather Tonight:** Considerable cloudiness. Low 26F. Winds NW at 5 to 10 mph. **Wed:** Cloudy. High 38F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph. **Tomorrow night:** Partly cloudy skies during the evening will give way to cloudy skies overnight. Low 33F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph. **Thu:** Mostly cloudy skies. Temps nearly steady in the mid to upper 30s. Winds WSW at 10 to 15 mph. **Fri:** Considerable cloudiness. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the low 30s. **Sat:** Considerable cloudiness. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the low 30s.

