

Volume 294 July 10, 2012

Illinois EPA to rethink pollution permit for Downstate coal-to-gas plant

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will reconsider an air pollution permit it granted to Tenaska Inc. in April for a coal-to-gas plant proposed for Taylorville near Springfield. Responding to the concerns of the U.S. EPA and environmental groups, the agency said it will take a second look at its decision to license the plant without requiring that its carbon dioxide emissions be captured and sequestered underground, the agency said in a filing Monday with the U.S. EPA's Environmental Appeals Board.

The Nebraska-based company, which proposes to turn coal into natural gas to generate electricity, had publicly stated in appeals to the Illinois General Assembly that the plant would capture greenhouse gas emissions and inject them underground. Tenaska had asked the Illinois EPA to consider including limits for carbon dioxide in its permit. But in its final decision, the Illinois EPA did not include the limits, arguing that the technology would not be feasible. In May, the Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club filed an appeal, arguing that under the Clean Air Act Tenaska must use the best technology available to control its emissions -- in this case, carbon capture and sequestration.

Southeast Side Residents Urge Gov Quinn to Sign Chicago Clean Energy Bill

More than 150 community members of the Southeast Side of Chicago gathered in support of the Chicago Clean Energy project, a \$3 billion private investment in the city. The group took a stand to set the record straight and to urge Governor Quinn to sign SB 3766, legislation that advances the project. Chicago Clean Energy will use gasification - a proven technology that creates substitute natural gas without burning or combustion and captures carbon dioxide and harmful emissions. The fact is the project is guaranteed by law to save consumers at least \$100 million on natural gas bills over 30 years. The Illinois Power Agency oversaw a \$10 million state-sponsored study that demonstrated that the project is likely to save consumers over \$1.2 billion. The pricing structure established by the existing law includes a number of built-in consumer protections to keep the price of natural gas near market during volatile prices swings. This includes a 2 percent rate cap, a \$1.5 billion reserve account that mitigates rate changes and a performance-based system to share savings and extra revenues with consumers. The structure of the rate caps is comparable to those established for wind and solar projects in Illinois.

Electricity Pricing Areas - Jul 10, 2012

July

On-Peak	Per kWh
West Hub	\$.05210
NI Hub	\$.04420

ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
July, 2011	\$.05170
Aug, 2011	\$.04064
Sep, 2011	\$.03058
Oct, 2011	\$.02968
Nov, 2011	\$.02816
Dec, 2011	\$.02971
Jan, 2012	\$.03043
Feb, 2012	\$.02963
Mar, 2012	\$.02894
April, 2012	\$.02659
May, 2012	\$.02816
June, 2012	\$.03089
July 1 thru July 9	\$.04150

Extended Temperature Forecast:

Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	81	87	89	86	85
Low	71	72	74	74	74

