

### Volume 349 August 13, 2013

Workers at Illinois coal-fired power plants are all worried about the same thing: whether they will lose their jobs.

Collectively, the 13 plants employ about 2,000 people and contribute more than a billion dollars to the Illinois economy in the form of their payrolls as well as the taxes they pay and the purchases they make from suppliers.

The impact on local economies where the plants are located could be significant because they often are major employers.

Virtually every coal plant in Illinois right now is owned by companies that are either in bankruptcy, have recently emerged from bankruptcy or whose bond ratings are approaching junk," said Howard Learner, executive director of the Chicago-based Environmental Law and Policy Center.

Owners of the plants have been squeezed by regulations forcing expensive pollution control upgrades at the same time cheaper sources of fuel have rendered the plants unprofitable. In the next two years, legal decisions affecting roughly two-thirds of the state's coal-fired power plants are expected to determine whether those plants have any future.

Ameren Corp. has already determined it no longer wants its five operating coal plants in the state, and it is attempting to hand them over at no cost to Houston-based Dynegy Inc. But there's a catch: The deal hinges on regulators' extending a deadline for cleaning up the plants' air pollution, and the total cost is estimated at about \$1.25 billion. Missouri-based Ameren says that if regulators can't guarantee Dynegy the extension, the deal could unravel, which would mean shutting down plants.

Meanwhile, Edison Mission Energy, the parent company of Midwest Generation, the owner of four Illinois coal plants, has been floundering in bankruptcy court, and some analysts expect its unprofitable plants to be shuttered.

Midwest Generation's plants face significant obstacles to complying with heightening environmental regulations, said Julien Dumoulin-Smith, director of equity research for electric utilities at UBS Securities. "These coal plants are very likely retirement candidates," he said.

The developments mean the state could see coal plants closing in rapid succession and hundreds of layoffs in struggling parts of the state.

### Electricity Pricing – August 13, 2013 Com Ed Average LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Aug, 2012	\$.03112
Sep, 2012	\$.03034
Oct, 2012	\$.02829
Nov, 2012	\$.03327
Dec, 2012	\$.03081
Jan, 2013	\$.03111
Feb, 2013	\$.03219
Mar, 2013	\$.03665
April, 2013	\$.03821
May, 2013	\$.03501
June, 2013	\$.03215
July, 2013	\$.04067
Aug 1 – Aug 12	\$.03012

### Extended Temperature Forecast: Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	72	74	79	79	80
Low	58	58	61	64	65

