Appendix G – Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS

Contents

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Friday, June 1, 2007

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Reader Aids
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER–FRL–6687–5]

Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the Office of Federal Activities at 202–564–7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 6, 2007 (72 FR 17156).

Draft EISs

EIS No. 20070116, ERP No. D–AFS–J65478–00, Norwood Project, Proposes to Implement Multiple Resource Management Actions, Black Hills National Forest, Hell Canyon Ranger District, Pennington County, SD and Weston and Crook Counties, WY.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about impacts to water quality, impacts to wetlands, impacts from noxious and invasive weeds, and impacts to wildlife habitat. Also, the final EIS should include information about future interactions with the soon to be completed cellulosic ethanol plant.

Rating EC2.

EIS No. 20070119, ERP No. D–NOA–L02034–AK, PROGRAMMATIC—Outer Continental Shelf Seismic Surveys in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, Proposed Offshore Oil and Gas Seismic Survey, AK.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about the uncertainties presented in the document that do not provide support for many of the documents alternatives and conclusions. EPA also requested that the cumulative effects analysis be expanded.

Rating EC2.

EIS No. 20070122, ERP No. D–BLM–J03020–00, Overland Pass Natural Gas Liquids Pipeline Project (OPP), Construction and Operation of 760 Mile Natural Gas Liquids Pipeline, Right-of-Way Grant, KS, WY and CO.

Summary: EPA expressed environmental concerns about potential impacts to river and stream water quality. EPA requested additional analysis of water quality impacts and mitigation measures.

Rating EC2.

EIS No. 20070154, ERP No. D–NOA–E91018–00, Amendment 27 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan and Amendment 14 to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan, To Address Stock Rebuilding and Overfishing of Red Snapper, Gulf of Mexico.

Summary: EPA does not object to the proposed actions.

Rating LO.

EIS No. 20070140, ERP No. DR–NOA–A91073–00, PROGRAMMATIC—Toward an Ecosystem Approach for the Western Pacific Region: From Species-Based Fishery Management Plans to Place-Based Fishery Ecosystem Plans, Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish, Coral Reef Ecosystems, Crustaceans, Precious Corals, Pelagics, Implementation, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaii, U.S. Pacific Remote Island Area.

Summary: EPA expressed a lack of objections to the proposed action.

Rating LO.

Final EISs

EIS No. 20070164, ERP No. F–AFS–J65440–MT, Northeast Yaak Project, Additional Documentation of Cumulative Effects Analysis, Proposed Harvest to Reduce Fuels in Old Growth, Implementation, Kootenai National Forest, Three Rivers Ranger District, Lincoln County, MT.

Summary: EPA continues to express concern about impacts to wildlife habitat.

Dated: May 29, 2007.

Ken Mittelholtz,

Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. E7–10600 Filed 5–31–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER–FRL–6687–4]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564–7167 or *http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/*.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements

Filed 05/21/2007 Through 05/25/2007 Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 20070205, Draft EIS, AFS, WA, Tripod Fire Salvage Project, Proposal to Salvage Harvest Dead Trees and Fire-Injured Trees Expected to Die Within One Year, Methow Valley and Tonasket Ranger Districts, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, Okanogan County, WA, *Comment Period Ends:* 07/16/2007, *Contact:* John Newcom 509–996–4003.

EIS No. 20070206, Final EIS, FHW, NY, NY Route 347 Safety and Mobility Improvement Project, from Northern State Parkway to NY Route 25A, Funding, Towns of Smithtown, Islip and Brookhaven, Suffolk County, NY, *Wait Period Ends:* 07/02/2007, *Contact:* Robert Arnold 518–431–4167.

EIS No. 20070207, Draft EIS, AFS, SD, Citadel Project Area, Proposes to Implement Multiple Resource Management Actions, Northern Hills Ranger District, Black Hills National Forest, Lawrence County, SD, *Comment Period Ends:* 07/16/2007, *Contact:* Chris Stores 605–642–4622.

EIS No. 20070208, Draft EIS, HUD, CA, Vista Village Workforce Housing Project, To Provide Professional Managed Affordable Housing, Tahoe Vista, Placer County, CA, *Comment Period Ends:* 07/16/2007, *Contact:* Joanne Auerboch 530–745–3150.

EIS No. 20070209, Draft EIS, FHW, NY, Long Island Truck-Rail Intermodel (LITRIM) Facility, Construction and Operation, Right-of-Way Acquisition, Town of Islip, Suffolk County, NY, *Comment Period Ends:* 07/25/2007, *Contact:* Robert Arnold 518–431–4127.

EIS No. 20070210, Draft EIS, USA, CA, Carmp Parks Real Property Master Plan and Real Property Exchange, Provide Exceptional Training and Modern Facilities for Soldiers, Master Planned Development, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, CA, *Comment Period Ends:* 07/16/2007, *Contact:* Amy Phillip 925–875–4298.

EIS No. 20070211, Draft EIS, AFS, OR, Thorn Fire Salvage Recovery Project, Salvaging Dead and Dying Timber, Shake Table Fire Complex, Malheur National Forest, Grant County, OR, *Comment Period Ends:* 07/16/2007, *Contact:* Jerry Hensley 541–575–3000.

EIS No. 20070212, Draft EIS, TVA, AL, Bear Creek Dam Leakage Resolution Project, To Modify Dam and Maintain Summer Pool Level of 576 Feet, Bear Creek Dam, Franklin County, AL, *Comment Period Ends:* 07/16/2007, *Contact:* James F. Williamson 865–632–6418.

EIS No. 20070213, Draft EIS, DOE, 00, FutureGen Project, Planning, Design, Construction and Operation a Coal Fueled Electric Power and Hydrogen Gas Production Plant, Four Alternative Sites: Mattoon, IL, Tuscola, IL, Jewett, TX and Odessa, TX, *Comment Period Ends:* 07/16/

2007, *Contact:* Mark McKoy 304–285–4426.

EIS No. 20070214, Final EIS, FRC, 00, East Texas to Mississippi Expansion Project, Construction and Operation of 243.3 miles Natural Gas Pipeline to Transport Natural Gas from Production Fields in eastern Texas to Markets in the Gulf Coast, Midwestern, Northeastern and Southeastern United States, *Wait Period Ends:* 07/02/2007, *Contact:* Andy Black 1–866–208–3372.

EIS No. 20070216, Draft Supplement, AFS, 00, Southwest Idaho Ecogroup Land and Resource Management Plan, Additional Information Concerning Terrestrial Management Indicator Species (MIS), Boise National Forest, Payette National Forest and Sawtooth National Forest, Forest Plan Revision, Implementation, Several Counties, ID; Malhaur County, OR and Box Elder County, UT, *Comment Period Ends:* 08/30/2007, *Contact:* Sharon LaBrecque 208–737–3200.

EIS No. 20070217, Final EIS, CDB, NY, East River Waterfront Esplanade and Piers Project, Revitalization, Connecting Whitehall Ferry Terminal and Peter Minuit Plaza to East River Park, Funding New York, NY, *Wait Period Ends:* 07/02/2007, *Contact:* Irene Chang 212–962–2300.

EIS No. 20070218, Draft EIS, FHW, CA, Interstate 405 (San Diego Freeway) Sepulveda Pass Widening Project, From Interstate 10 to US–101 in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, CA, *Comment Period Ends:* 07/16/2007, *Contact:* Steve Healow 916–498–5849.

EIS No. 20070219, Final EIS, AFS, 00, Norwood Project, Proposes to Implement Multiple Resource Management Actions, Black Hills National Forest, Hell Canyon Ranger District, Pennington County, SD and Weston and Crook Counties, WY, *Wait Period Ends:* 07/02/2007, *Contact:* Kelly Honors 605–673–4853.

Amended Notices

EIS No. 20070069, Second Final Supplement, FHW, WV, Appalachian Corridor H Project, Construction of a 9-mile Long Segment between the Termini of Parsons and Davis, Updated Information the Parsons-to-Davis Project, Funding and U.S. Army COE Section 404 Permit Issuance, Tucker County, WV, *Wait Period Ends:* 08/01/2007, *Contact:* Thomas J. Smith 304–347–5928. Revision to FR Notice Published 03/02/2007: Reopen and Extending Comment Period from 4/27/2007 to August 1, 2007.

Dated: May 29, 2007.

Ken Mittelholtz,

Environmental Protection Specialist, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. E7–10593 Filed 5–31–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA–HQ–OPP–2006–0072; FRL–8131–1]

Pesticide Products; Registration Applications

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt of applications to register pesticide products containing new active ingredients not included in any currently registered products pursuant to the provisions of section 3(c)(4) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), as amended.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 31, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by docket identification (ID) number EPA–HQ–OPP–2006–0072, by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: *http://www.regulations.gov*. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail*: Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) Regulatory Public Docket (7502P), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460–0001.
- *Delivery*: OPP Regulatory Public Docket (7502P), Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. S-4400, One Potomac Yard (South Bldg.), 2777 S. Crystal Dr., Arlington, VA. Deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation (8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays). Special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information. The Docket telephone number is (703) 305–5805.

Instructions: Direct your comments to docket ID number EPA–HQ–OPP–2006–0072. EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the docket without change and may be made available on-line at *http://www.regulations.gov*, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through regulations.gov or e-mail. The Federal regulations.gov website is an ''anonymous access'' system, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an e-mail comment directly to EPA without going through regulations.gov, your e-mail address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses.

Docket: All documents in the docket are listed in the docket index available in regulations.gov. To access the electronic docket, go to *http://www.regulations.gov*, select ''Advanced Search,'' then ''Docket Search.'' Insert the docket ID number where indicated and select the ''Submit'' button. Follow the instructions on the regulations.gov web site to view the docket index or access available documents. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either in the electronic docket at *http://www.regulations.gov*, or, if only available in hard copy, at the OPP Regulatory Public Docket in Rm. S-4400, One Potomac Yard (South Bldg.), 2777 S. Crystal Dr., Arlington, VA. The hours of operation of this Docket Facility are from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The Docket telephone number is (703) 305–5805.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eugene Wilson, Registration Division (7505P), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460–0001; telephone number: (703) 305–6103; e-mail address: *wilson.eugene@epa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

State	Parents of dependents and independents with dependents other than a spouse		Dependents and independents without dependents other than a spouse
	Under $15,000 (percent)	$15,000 & up (percent)	All (percent)
New York	9	8	6
North Carolina	6	5	4
North Dakota	2	1	1
Ohio	6	5	4
Oklahoma	6	5	3
Oregon	7	6	5
Pennsylvania	5	4	3
Rhode Island	7	6	4
South Carolina	5	4	3
South Dakota	2	1	1
Tennessee	2	1	1
Texas	3	2	1
Utah	5	4	4
Vermont	5	4	3
Virginia	5	4	3
Washington	4	3	2
West Virginia	3	2	2
Wisconsin	7	6	4
Wyoming	2	1	1
Other	3	2	2

You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: *http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister*.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1–888–293–6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512–1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: *http://www.gpoaccess.gov/nara/index.html*.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers: 84.007 Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant; 84.032 Federal Family Education Loan Program; 84.033 Federal Work-Study Program; 84.038 Federal Perkins Loan Program; 84.063 Federal Pell Grant Program; 84.268 William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program; 84.375 Academic Competitiveness Grant; 84.376 National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant)

Dated: May 29, 2007.

Theresa S. Shaw,

Chief Operating Officer, Federal Student Aid.

[FR Doc. E7–10621 Filed 5–31–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Cancellation Notice of a Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY: United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

ACTION: Notice to Cancel EAC Standards Board Virtual Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Election Assistance Commission has cancelled the EAC Standards Board Virtual Public Meeting scheduled for Monday, June 18, 2007, 7 a.m. EDT through Wednesday, June 20, 5 p.m. EDT. The meeting was announced in a sunshine notice that was published in the **Federal Register** on Thursday, May 31, 2007. PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION:

Bryan Whitener, Telephone: (202) 566–3100.

Gracia M. Hillman,

Commissioner, U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

[FR Doc. 07–2772 Filed 5–30–07; 3:31 pm]

BILLING CODE 6820–KF–M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the FutureGen Project

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of availability and public hearings.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the document, Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the FutureGen Project (DOE/EIS–0394D), for public comment. The draft environmental impact statement (EIS) analyzes the potential environmental consequences of DOE's proposed action to provide federal funding for the FutureGen Project. The Project would include the planning, design, construction and operation of the FutureGen facility, a prototype electric power and hydrogen gas generating plant that employs coal gasification technology integrated with combined-cycle electricity generation and the capture and geologic sequestration of the carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions. The project would also include a research platform, which would be a principal feature of the prototype plant. The proposed action would be undertaken by a private sector, non-profit consortium of industrial participants known as the FutureGen Alliance, Inc., (the Alliance). The Alliance includes some of the largest coal producers and electricity generators in the world. Under a Cooperative Agreement between DOE and the Alliance, the Alliance would be primarily responsible for implementing the FutureGen Project, while DOE would guide the Alliance at a programmatic level to ensure the FutureGen Project's objectives are met.

The Department prepared the draft EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality

(CEQ) regulations that implement the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and DOE procedures implementing NEPA (10 CFR part 1021).

DOE identified four reasonable alternative sites for analysis in the EIS. Based on the EIS, DOE will determine which sites, if any, are acceptable to DOE to host the FutureGen Project. The four sites currently being considered for the FutureGen Project are: Mattoon, Illinois; Tuscola, Illinois; Jewett, Texas; and Odessa, Texas. The Project would incorporate cutting-edge research, as well as help develop promising new energy-related technologies at a commercial scale. Performance and economic test results from the FutureGen Project would be shared among all participants, industry, the environmental community, and the public.

The proposed power plant would be a 275-megawatt (MW) output Integrated Gasification Combined-Cycle (IGCC) system combined with CO_2 capture and geologic storage at a rate of at least 1.1 million tons of CO_2 per year. The research facilities and power plant would be constructed at one of the four alternative sites identified above. The potential environmental impacts of locating and operating the FutureGen Project at each of the alternative sites are evaluated in the draft EIS. The draft EIS also analyzed the No-Action Alternative, under which DOE would not share in the cost for constructing and operating the FutureGen Project. Without DOE funding, neither the Alliance nor U.S. industry would likely undertake the commercial scale integration of CO_2 capture and geologic sequestration in deep saline reservoirs with a coal-fueled power plant in a comparable timeframe.

DATES: DOE invites the public to comment on the draft EIS during the public comment period, which ends July 16, 2007. DOE will consider all comments postmarked or received during the public comment period in preparing the final EIS, and will consider late comments to the extent practicable.

DOE will conduct public hearings near each of the four candidate sites to obtain comments on the draft EIS. The meeting schedule is: June 19, 2007 in Midland, Texas; June 21, 2007 in Buffalo, Texas; June 26, 2007 in Mattoon, Illinois; and June 28, 2007 in Tuscola, Illinois. Informational sessions will be held at each location from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., preceding the formal presentations and formal comment period from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for details on the meeting process and locations.

ADDRESSES: Requests for information about this draft EIS and requests to receive a copy of the draft EIS should be directed to: Mr. Mark L. McKoy, NEPA Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, WV 26507–0880, Attn: FutureGen Project EIS. Mr. McKoy can also be contacted by telephone at (304) 285–4262, toll free at 1–800–432–8330 (extension 4262), fax 304–285–4403, or e-mail *FutureGen.EIS@netl.doe.gov*. Additional information about the draft EIS may also be requested or messages recorded by calling the FutureGen telephone line at (304) 285–4262, or toll free at (800) 432–8330 (extension 4262). The draft EIS will be available via the Internet at *http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa/* . Copies of the draft EIS are also available for public review at the locations listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this Notice.

Written comments on the draft EIS can be mailed to Mr. Mark L. McKoy, NEPA Document Manager, at the address noted above. Written comments may also be submitted by fax to: (304) 285–4403; or submitted electronically to: *FutureGen.EIS@netl.doe.gov*. In addition to providing oral comments during the public hearings, oral comments on the draft EIS may be recorded by calling the FutureGen telephone line at (304) 285–4262, or toll free at (800) 432–8330 (extension 4262).

For Additional Information: For further information on the proposed project or the draft EIS, contact Mr. Mark L. McKoy as directed above. For general information regarding the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC–20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585–0119, Telephone: (202) 586–4600, or leave a message at (800) 472–2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

President Bush proposed on February 27, 2003, that the United States undertake a $1 billion, 10-year project to build the world's first coal-fueled plant to produce electricity and hydrogen with near-zero emissions. In response to this announcement, the DOE developed plans for the FutureGen Project, which would establish the technical and economic feasibility of producing electricity and hydrogen from coal—a low-cost and abundant energy resource—while capturing and geologically storing the CO_2 generated in the process.

DOE would implement the FutureGen Project through a Cooperative Agreement that provides financial assistance to the FutureGen Alliance, Inc., a non-profit corporation that represents a global coalition of coal and energy companies. The Alliance members are: American Electric Power Company, Inc. (Columbus, OH); Anglo American, LLC (London, UK); BHP Billiton Limited (Melbourne, Australia); China Huaneng Group (Beijing, China); CONSOL Energy, Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA); E.ON U.S. LLC (Louisville, KY); Foundation Coal Holdings, Inc. (Linthicum Heights, MD); Peabody Energy Corporation (St. Louis, MO); PPL Corporation (Allentown, PA); Rio Tinto Energy America (Gillette, WY); Southern Company (Atlanta, GA); and Xstrata Coal (Sydney, Australia). Several foreign governments have entered into discussions with DOE regarding possible contributions.

Description of Alternatives

DOE analyzed four alternative sites and the No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative DOE would not share in the cost for constructing and operating the FutureGen Project. Without DOE funding, neither the Alliance nor U.S. industry would likely undertake the commercial scale integration of CO_2 capture and geologic sequestration in deep saline reservoirs with a coal-fueled power plant in a comparable timeframe.

Under the proposed action, DOE would provide financial assistance to the Alliance to plan, design, construct, and operate the FutureGen Project. DOE has identified four potential sites and, based on the EIS, will determine which sites, if any, are acceptable to DOE to host the FutureGen Project. The four sites currently being considered as reasonable alternatives for the FutureGen Project are: Mattoon, Illinois; Tuscola, Illinois; Jewett, Texas; and Odessa, Texas. The FutureGen Project would include a coal-fueled electric power and hydrogen production plant. The power plant would be a 275-megawatt (MW) output Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) system combined with CO_2 capture and geologic storage at a rate of at least 1.1 million tons of CO_2 per year.

The draft EIS analyzes the environmental consequences that may result from the proposed action at each of the four candidate sites. Potential impacts identified during the scoping process and analyzed in the draft EIS relate to: Air quality; climate and meteorology; geology; physiography and

soils; groundwater; surface water; wetlands and floodplains; biological resources; cultural resources; land use; aesthetics; transportation and traffic noise and vibration; utility systems; materials and waste management; human health, safety, and accidents; community services; socioeconomics; and environmental justice.

Availability of the Draft EIS

Copies of the draft EIS have been distributed to members of Congress, Federal, State, and local officials, and agencies, organizations, and individuals who may be interested or affected. The draft EIS will be available on the Internet at: *http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa/*. Additional copies can also be requested by contacting the NEPA Document Manager, as indicated above under **ADDRESSES**. Copies of the draft EIS are also available for public review at the locations listed below.

Mattoon Public Library, 1600 Charleston Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938.

Tuscola Public Library, 112 East Sale Street, Tuscola, IL 61953.

Fairfield City Library (near Jewett), 350 W. Main Street, Fairfield, TX 75480.

University of Texas of the Permian Basin, J. Conrad Dunagan Library, Main Floor, 4901 E. University Avenue, Odessa, TX 79762–0001.

Additional information about the FutureGen Project can be found at these web sites: *http://www.doe.gov; http://fossil.energy.gov/programs/powersystems/futuregen/*; or *http://www.futuregenalliance.org*.

Public Meetings

DOE will conduct public hearings near each of the four candidate sites to obtain comments on the draft EIS. Requests to speak at the public hearings can be made by calling or writing to the NEPA Document Manager (see **ADDRESSES**). Requests to speak that have not been submitted prior to the hearing will be accepted in the order in which they are received during the hearing. Speakers are encouraged to provide a written version of their oral comments or supplementary materials for the record. Each speaker will be allowed approximately five minutes to present comments. Those speakers who want more than five minutes should indicate the length of time desired in their request. Depending on the number of speakers, DOE may need to limit all speakers to five minutes initially and provide additional opportunities as time permits. Comments will be recorded by a court reporter and will become part of the public record. Oral and written comments will be given equal consideration.

Each hearing will begin with an information session at approximately 4 p.m., followed by formal presentations and a formal comment session beginning at approximately 7 p.m. DOE will begin each meeting's formal session with an overview of the proposed FutureGen Project, followed by oral statements by the scheduled speakers. Speakers may be asked questions to help ensure that DOE fully understands the comments. A presiding officer will establish the order of speakers and provide any additional procedures necessary to conduct the meetings.

All meetings will be accessible to people with disabilities. Any individual with a disability requiring special assistance, such as a sign language interpreter, or a translator, should contact Mr. Mark McKoy, the NEPA Document Manager, (See **ADDRESSES**) at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting so that arrangements can be made.

Meeting Schedule

Texas—Odessa Site.

Date: June 19, 2007.

Place: Center for Energy and Economic Diversification (CEED) Building, 1400 North FM 1788, Midland, TX 79707.

Texas—Jewett Site.

Date: June 21, 2007.

Place: Buffalo Civic Center, 941 North Hill Street, Buffalo, TX 75831 (Located near the intersection of US–79 and I–45).

Illinois—Mattoon Site.

Date: June 26, 2007.

Place: Riddle Elementary School, 4201 Western Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938 (Located at the corner of Western Avenue and 43rd Street [CR 300E]).

Illinois—Tuscola Site.

Date: June 28, 2007.

Place: Tuscola Community Building, 122 W. Central Avenue, Tuscola, IL 61953. (From I–57, take exit 212 to U.S. Hwy 36 and continue to the intersection of North Central Ave. and South Main Street).

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 25, 2007.

Mark J. Matarrese,

Director, Office of Environment, Security, Safety and Health, Office of Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. E7–10563 Filed 5–31–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC07–542–000; FERC–542]

Commission Information Collection Activities, Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension

May 25, 2007.

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104–13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due August 3, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Copies of sample filings of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from the Commission's Web site (*http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filings/elibrary.asp*) or from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael Miller, Office of the Executive Director, ED–34, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. Comments may be filed either in paper format or electronically. Those parties filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing. For paper filing, the original and 14 copies of such comments should be submitted to the Secretary of the Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426 and refer to Docket No. IC07–542–000.

Documents filed electronically via the Internet must be prepared in WordPerfect, MS Word, Portable Document Format, or ASCII format. To file the document, access the Commission's Web site at *http://www.ferc.gov*, choose the Documents & Filings tab, click on eFiling, then follow the instructions given. First time users will have to establish a user name and password. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgement to the sender's e-mail address upon receipt of comments.

All comments may be viewed, printed or downloaded remotely via the Internet through FERC's homepage using the eLibrary link. For user assistance, contact *FERConlinesupport@ferc.gov* or toll-free at (866) 208–3676 or for TTY, contact (202) 502–8659.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 502–8415, by fax at

Appendix H - Newspaper Ads

DOE/NETL ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED FUTUREGEN PROJECT

On Friday, June 1, 2007, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) published a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register (71 FR 42840) of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed action of providing financial assistance for the FutureGen Project to the FutureGen Alliance, Inc., a non-profit consortium of some of the world's largest coal producers and electricity generators.

The FutureGen Project would be the first commercial scale integration of a suite of advanced clean coal technologies. As a research facility, the project would produce 275 megawatts of electric power and hydrogen gas using coal gasification technology integrated with combined-cycle electricity generation. A major feature of the proposed prototype facilities would be the capture and geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide emissions. One of the sites being considered is the **Mattoon, Illinois** site, which is located approximately one mile northwest of the city of Mattoon.

Additional information can be found at the FutureGen website: http://www.fossil.energy.gov/programs/powersystems/futuregen.

NETL is hosting public hearings to present an overview of the project and Draft EIS followed by an opportunity for members of the public to provide oral and written comments for the record. A public hearing will be held:

Tuesday, June 26, 2007
4:00pm – 7:00pm Open House
7:00pm – 9:00pm Formal Presentation
Riddle Elementary School
4201 Western Avenue
Mattoon, Illinois 61938

Individuals who wish to speak at a public hearing may register in advance by notifying DOE's NEPA Document Manager: Mr. Mark L. McKoy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 880, MS N03, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880, or they may register at the public meetings. Oral comments will be initially limited to five minutes so that sufficient time will be available to allow all individuals to be heard. Other options for registering or submitting comments on the Draft EIS are by mail to Mark L. McKoy at the above address, fax (304-285-4403), e-mail (FutureGen.EIS@netl.doe.gov), or telephone toll-free (1-800-432-8330, ext. 4262). If you require assistance, such as a sign language translator, for this meeting, please contact Mark L. McKoy, U.S. DOE-NETL.

For further information on the Draft EIS for the FutureGen Project, or to request additional copies, please contact Mark L. McKoy at the above address, call 1-800-432-8330, ext. 4262, or e-mail FutureGen.EIS@netl.doe.gov. The Draft EIS is available at the Mattoon Public Library in Mattoon, Illinois and posted on DOE's NEPA website at http://www.eh.doe.gov/nepa/.

DOE/NETL ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED FUTUREGEN PROJECT

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Additional information can be found at the FutureGen website: http://www.fossil.energy.gov/programs/powersystems/futuregen.

NETL is hosting public hearings to present an overview of the project and Draft EIS followed by an opportunity for members of the public to provide oral and written comments for the record. A public hearing will be held:

Thursday, June 28, 2007
4:00pm – 7:00pm Open House
7:00pm – 9:00pm Formal Presentation
Tuscola Community Building
122 West Central Avenue
Tuscola, Illinois 61953

Individuals who wish to speak at a public hearing may register in advance by notifying DOE's NEPA Document Manager: Mr. Mark L. McKoy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 880, MS N03, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880, or they may register at the public meetings. Oral comments will be initially limited to five minutes so that sufficient time will be available to allow all individuals to be heard. Other options for registering or submitting comments on the Draft EIS are by mail to Mark L. McKoy at the above address, fax (304-285-4403), e-mail (FutureGen.EIS@netl.doe.gov), or telephone toll-free (1-800-432-8330, ext. 4262). If you require assistance, such as a sign language translator, for this meeting, please contact Mark L. McKoy, U.S. DOE-NETL.

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Additional information can be found at the FutureGen website: http://www.fossil.energy.gov/programs/powersystems/futuregen.

NETL is hosting public hearings to present an overview of the project and Draft EIS followed by an opportunity for members of the public to provide oral and written comments for the record. A public hearing will be held:

Thursday, June 21, 2007
4:00pm – 7:00pm Open House
7:00pm – 9:00pm Formal Presentation
941 North Hill Street
Buffalo, Texas 75831

Individuals who wish to speak at a public hearing may register in advance by notifying DOE's NEPA Document Manager: Mr. Mark L. McKoy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 880, MS N03, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880, or they may register at the public meetings. Oral comments will be initially limited to five minutes so that sufficient time will be available to allow all individuals to be heard. Other options for registering or submitting comments on the Draft EIS are by mail to Mark L. McKoy at the above address, fax (304-285-4403), e-mail (FutureGen.EIS@netl.doe.gov), or telephone toll-free (1-800-432-8330, ext. 4262). If you require assistance, such as a sign language translator, for this meeting, please contact Mark L. McKoy, U.S. DOE-NETL.

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Additional information can be found at the FutureGen website: http://www.fossil.energy.gov/programs/powersystems/futuregen.

NETL is hosting public hearings to present an overview of the project and Draft EIS followed by an opportunity for members of the public to provide oral and written comments for the record. A public hearing will be held:

Tuesday, June 19, 2007
4:00pm – 7:00pm Open House
7:00pm – 9:00pm Formal Presentation
CEED Auditorium
1400 North FM 1788
Midland, Texas 79707

Individuals who wish to speak at a public hearing may register in advance by notifying DOE's NEPA Document Manager: Mr. Mark L. McKoy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, P.O. Box 880, MS N03, Morgantown, WV 26507-0880, or they may register at the public meetings. Oral comments will be initially limited to five minutes so that sufficient time will be available to allow all individuals to be heard. Other options for registering or submitting comments on the Draft EIS are by mail to Mark L. McKoy at the above address, fax (304-285-4403), e-mail (FutureGen.EIS@netl.doe.gov), or telephone toll-free (1-800-432-8330, ext. 4262). If you require assistance, such as a sign language translator, for this meeting, please contact Mark L. McKoy, U.S. DOE-NETL.

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Appendix I – Public Hearing Agendas

Agenda

U.S. Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory

Public Hearing
for the
FutureGen Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Tuesday, June 26, 2007
Riddle Elementary School
4201 Western Avenue
Mattoon, Illinois 61938

4:00 pm	**Informal Session**	**DOE/Alliance**
	Poster Session and Questions	
	Formal Comment Sign-In (at Comment Sign-In Station)*	
	Informal Comment Collection	
7:00 pm	**Formal Session**	**DOE/Alliance**
	Welcome	Mark McKoy (DOE)
	Background & DOE's Role	Tom Sarkus (DOE)
	FutureGen Project Overview	Michael Mudd (FutureGen Alliance)
	NEPA, Draft EIS, and Next Steps	Mark McKoy (DOE)

Formal Public Comments

Elected Officials and Leaders (Federal, State, Local)
Agency Officials (Federal, State, Local)
General Public (in order of sign-in list)
Anyone not Previously Signed-In

Adjourn

A Court Reporter will be available to write down your comments during the informal session (4:00 to 7:00 pm) and during the formal session (7:00 to 9:00 pm). Your comments may also be provided to DOE in writing on the comments forms provided.

Agenda

U.S. Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory

Public Hearing
for the
FutureGen Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Thursday, June 28, 2007
Tuscola Community Building
122 West Central Avenue
Tuscola, Illinois 61953

4:00 pm	**Informal Session**	**DOE/Alliance**
	Poster Session and Questions	
	Formal Comment Sign-In (at Comment Sign-In Station)*	
	Informal Comment Collection	
7:00 pm	**Formal Session**	**DOE/Alliance**
	Welcome	Mark McKoy (DOE)
	Background & DOE's Role	Tom Sarkus (DOE)
	FutureGen Project Overview	Michael Mudd (FutureGen Alliance)
	NEPA, Draft EIS, and Next Steps	Mark McKoy (DOE)

Formal Public Comments

Elected Officials and Leaders (Federal, State, Local)
Agency Officials (Federal, State, Local)
General Public (in order of sign-in list)
Anyone not Previously Signed-In

Adjourn

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National Energy Technology Laboratory

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for the
FutureGen Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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	Background & DOE's Role	Tom Sarkus (DOE)
	FutureGen Project Overview	Jerry Oliver (FutureGen Alliance)
	NEPA, Draft EIS, and Next Steps	Mark McKoy (DOE)

Formal Public Comments

Elected Officials and Leaders (Federal, State, Local)
Agency Officials (Federal, State, Local)
General Public (in order of sign-in list)
Anyone not Previously Signed-In

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U.S. Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory

Public Hearing
for the
FutureGen Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Tuesday, June 19, 2007
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1400 North FM 1788
Midland, Texas 79707

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Formal Public Comments

Elected Officials and Leaders (Federal, State, Local)
Agency Officials (Federal, State, Local)
General Public (in order of sign-in list)
Anyone not Previously Signed-In

Adjourn

A Court Reporter will be available to write down your comments during the informal session (4:00 to 7:00 pm) and during the formal session (7:00 to 9:00 pm). Your comments may also be provided to DOE in writing on the comments forms provided.

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Appendix J – Commentor Sign-In Sheets

FutureGen Project
Public Hearing
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Mattoon, Illinois

Commentor Sign-Up

NR.	TIME (for facilitator use)	NAME & TITLE (please print legibly)	ORGANIZATION (if applicable)
1.	3	KENT METZGER	
2.	10	Rep. Chapin Rose	State Representative 110
3.	2	Angela Griffin	Coles Together
4.	7	Larry Lilly	Mattoon Schools
5.	6	Tori Poxwell	Local Affairs Comm Coles Co. Farm Bureau / IBEW Local 146 Farmers Electricians
6.	4	~~John Taylor~~	~~Electricians~~
7.	5	Jim McShane	Cross Roads Workforce Investment Bd.
8.	1	Ann Short	Mayor Sullivan IL
9.	1	Phil Gonet	Illinois Coal Assoc.
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FutureGen Project

Public Hearing

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Tuscola, Illinois

Commentor Sign-Up

NR.	TIME (for facilitator use)	NAME & TITLE (please print legibly)	ORGANIZATION (if applicable)
1.		Joe Burgess	Tuscola CUSD #301
2.	①	Warren Ribley	IL Dept of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
3.		Vernon Knapp	IL State Water Survey
4.		DAVID Cook	Carle Hospital
5.		Larry Sapp	Carle Hospital
6.		Anita Cuffey	Carle Hospital
7.		William Looby	Illinois AFL-CIO
8.		Barry Matchett	Environmental Law & Policy Center
9.		ALAN STOEMAKER	Tuscola Stone Co.
10.		Matthew Jones	U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson
11.		Dan Kleiss	Cabot Corporation
12.		Reggie Clinton	Arcola School Dist.
13.		BRIAN Moody	Tuscola School Dist.
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FutureGen Project
Public Hearing
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Formal Session
7:00 - 9:00

Jewett, Texas

Commentor Sign-Up

NR.	TIME (for facilitator use)	NAME & TITLE (please print legibly)	ORGANIZATION (if applicable)
1.		Ivan Jackson JR. self	Ducks Unlimited Rancher
2.		Byron Keeler	Leon Co. (Judge)
3.		Tom Wilkinson Ex. Director	BVCOG
4.		Kevin Brandt Freestone County E.D.	
5.		Daniel Burkeen Limestone Co. Judge	
6.		Lionel J. Milberger	none self (citizen)
7.		Micheal Williams	Railroad Commissioner
8.		GARY J. MECHLER	NRG - TEXAS
9.			
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Jewett

Commentors

1. Michael Williams, Texas Railroad Commissioner
2. ~~X~~ Byron Ryder, Leon County Judge
3. ~~X~~ Daniel Burkeen, Limestone County Judge
4. ~~X~~ Ivan Jackson Jr., Ducks Unlimited / Rancher
5. ~~X~~ Tom Wilkinson, Executive Director of the Brazos Valley Council of Governments
6. ~~X~~ Kevin Benedict, Freestone County Economic Developer
7. ~~X~~ Lionel J. Milberger, citizen
8. Gary J. Meckler, NRG-Texas

Jewett

Acknowledgements

Micheal Williams, Texas Railroad Commissione

Chris Turner and
Lindsey Davis, representing Congressman Chet Edw

Mary Jo Hurley, representing State Senator Steve Og

Byron Ryder, Leon County Judge

Daniel Burkeen, Limestone County Judge

~~Elenor Holmes, Former Limestone County Judge~~

Linda Grant, Freestone County Judge

Jan Roe, Robertson County Judge

~~Linda Ray, Anderson County Judge~~

Judy Kirkpatrick, Mayor of Jewett

Roy Hill, Mayor of Fairfield

FORMAL SESSION ... Odessa

FutureGen Project
Public Hearing
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Odessa, Texas

Commentor Sign-Up

NR.	TIME (for facilitator use)	NAME & TITLE (please print legibly)	ORGANIZATION (if applicable)
1.		Scott LaGrone	Clean Refined Coal C
2.		~~Gil Van Deventer~~	~~Trident Environ~~
3.		Sean Boswell	Darren McDona
4.		Ricky Wright	Cong. Mike Con.
5.		Gil Van Deventer	Trident Environ
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Odessa

Michael L Williams
Railroad Commissioner

Richey Wright
Rep Cong. Michael Conaway

Denise Peckins
Rep Senkel Seliger

odessa

ELECTED OFFICIALS

1. Michael Williams, Railroad Commissioner
2. Ricky Wright, representing Congressman Michael Conaway ~~Siegel~~
3. Denise Perkins, representing State Senator Seliger
4. Royce Bodiford, { Odessa City Council District 3 / Mayor of Protem, City of Odessa
5. Mike George, President of the Odessa Chamber of Commerce

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Appendix K – Transcripts and Errata Sheets

Errata for the Transcript of
the U.S. Department of Energy
FutureGen Public Hearing

June 26, 2007
Riddle Elementary School
Mattoon, Illinois

Acronyms Used
CD – Compact disc
DOE – U.S. Department of Energy
EIS – Environmental Impact Statement
IGCC – Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
NETL – National Energy Technology Laboratory
R&D – Research and development

Page 0000
Line 7 – Delete "A.D."
Page 2
Line 1 – Change "MC KOY" to "McKOY"
Line 10 – Change "cites" to "sites"
Page 6
Line 13 – Change "R & D" to "R&D"
Page 9
Line 12 – Change "CO-2" to "CO2"
Line 15 – Change "CO-2" to "CO2"
Line 16 – Change "CO-2" to "CO2"
Line 17 – Change "CO-2" to "CO2"
Line 19 – Change "CO-2" to "CO2"
Page 11
Line 1 – Change "MC KOY" to "McKOY"
Page 14
Line 10 – Change "CO-2" to "CO2"
Page 15
Line 1 – Change "CO-2" to "CO2"
Line 19 – Change "CO-2" to "CO2"
Page 16
Line 23 – Change "R and D" to "R&D"
Page 17
Line 21 – Change "C0-2" to "CO2"
Line 24 – Change "CO-2" to "CO2"
Page 18
Line 14 – Change "CO-2" to "CO2"
Line 14 – Change "CO-2" to "CO2"
Line 18 – Change "foot" to "feet"

Line 18 – Change “CO-2” to “CO2”
Page 21
Line 13 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Page 27
Line 20 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Page 30
Line 20 – Change “CO-2” to “CO2”
Page 32
Line 5 – Change “our” to “are”
Page 33
Line 10 – Change “CO-2” to “CO2”
Page 36
Line 16 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Page 38
Line 5 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Page 39
Line 12 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Page 45
Line 23 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Page 46
Line 23– Change “CO-2” to “CO2”
Page 47
Line 15 – Change “page” to “pages”
Page 48
Line 5 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Line 7 – Change “MARK MC SHANE” to “JIM McSHANE”
Line 23 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Page 50
Line 4 – Change “CO-2” to “CO2”
Page 51
Line 3 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Page 52
Line 7 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Page 53
Line 20 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Page 55
Line 1 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Line 4 – Change “KEN” to “KENT”
Line 13 – Change “CO-2” to “CO 2”
Line 19 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Page 56
Line 22 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”
Page 58
Line 6 – Change “MC KOY” to “McKOY”

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

PROCEEDINGS

The proceedings taken on the 26th day of June, 2007 A.D., IN RE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FUTUREGEN PROJECT, taken at 7:00 p.m., at Riddle Elementary School, 122 West Central Avenue, Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois, before Susan Bursa, C.S.R., a Notary Public of Douglas County.

PRESENT:

Mark McKoy
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NEPA DOCUMENT MANAGER

Susan Bursa, C.S.R.
709 Lincoln Place
Arthur, Illinois 61911

INDEX

MARK MC KOY: Welcome to the Department of Energy's Public Hearing for the FutureGen Project.

Let the record show that the hearing began on June 26, 2007, at 7:06 p.m., at the Riddle Elementary School, in Mattoon, Illinois.

As part of its compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the DOE has produced a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS. This document analyzes the potential environmental impact at the alternative cites for the proposed FutureGen Project. Both the document and the comments received should help the DOE in making better informed decisions.

The Draft EIS has been distributed to persons who have previously expressed some type of interest in the project. If you previously requested a copy of the document and have not received it, please provide your name and mailing address to Robin Griffin, Robin is located over here to your left, and indicate the form in which you would like to receive the document.

Also there are comment cards available that can be used to request a copy of the Draft EIS as well as the final EIS. And these cards are located at the DOE exhibits at the back of the room.

The document is available in three forms. You can

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receive the entire document in electronic form on a CD. You can receive a hard copy of the summary plus a CD with the entire document, or you can receive a hard copy of the entire document. We have, with us, a limited number of hard copies of the summary and CDs available tonight.

After the Draft EIS is distributed to the public, a public hearing is held to help gather comments on the document and on the proposed federal actions. During the informal session earlier this evening between 4 and 7 p.m., DOE and its support contractors, as well as representatives of the FutureGen Alliance and the local site proponents, that is the FutureGen Illinois, Mattoon team, were available to listen to your concerns and to attempt to answer your questions. We hope the session was as informative for you as it was for us.

During the formal session tonight, we will briefly present the role of DOE; and we will go over the relevant parts that meet with compliance and the remaining schedules. And the FutureGen Alliance will briefly present an overview of the FutureGen Project. Then we will begin the formal comment session. As with the scoping meetings held in August, we will give priority to elected officials and their designated representatives to go first. However DOE realized, during the scoping meetings, the general

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public had to wait a long time before having the opportunity to speak. This time with the assistance and cooperation of the elected officials, we hope to give the general public an opportunity to speak sooner this evening.

We hope that all of you can stay for the entire oral comments session. For those who cannot stay, we still have a court reporter set up just down the hall here out through the door to your left, down the hall who can take oral comments. And that would be for people who just can't stay or feel uncomfortable speaking in front of a large audience. While we prefer that you provide oral comments

here during the formal, oral comment session later this evening, the comment station is an alternative. And this option will be available until we start the oral comment session here.

Written comments are given equal weight with oral comments, and written comments tend to be crafted more carefully and can be written at your convenience. You may provide written comments instead of or in addition to oral comments. Again, there are comment cards available at the DOE exhibits. You can fill out the cards and submit them tonight or anytime before the close of the comment period on July 16.

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You can provide comments by e-mail, regular mail, faxes, voice mail, and telephone calls, as indicated on the literature available at the DOE exhibits.

For tonight's agenda, there will be a presentation on DOE's role in the project. That presentation will be provided by Tom Sarkus from the DOE office in Pittsburgh. There will be a project overview provided by Mike Mudd, the CEO of the FutureGen Alliance. And I believe Jerry Oliver, the Senior Vice President, will also be involved in the presentation.

I will go over, briefly, some of the most relevant aspects of NEPA compliance in the NEPA schedule. And then we will get to the comments that are from you.

Visiting with us tonight, we have Bart Ellefritz, representing Senator Dick Durbin.

Is he here? Just left. Okay.

And when I call your name, please stand up for a moment.

Kathy Harrington, representing Senator Barack Obama. Thank you.

Rodney Davis, Project Director for US Representative John Shimkus. Thank you.

State Representative Chapin Rose. Thank you.

Jack Lavin, Director of Commerce and Economic

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Opportunity.

Charlie White, Mayor of Mattoon.

Ann Short, Mayor of Sullivan.

Dennis Hostetter, Mayor of Windsor. I didn't see Dennis.

Dave Schilling, Mattoon City Commissioner.

Joe McKenzie, Mattoon City Commissioner.

And Larry Reynolds, Charleston City Counsel.

Representing the Department of Energy, again, Tom Sarkus. The Department of Energy NETL, National Energy Technology Laboratory at Pittsburgh. Tom is the DOE Project Director for FutureGen. He is with the Office of Coal and Power R & D.

We have Otis Mills. Otis. Otis is with the DOE office in Pittsburgh. He's our Media Relations Expert.

Jeff Hoffman, with the DOE office in Pittsburgh. Jeff is a Systems Engineer working on the project.

Bill Guilliam, with DOE in Morgantown. Bill is a geologist, recently assigned to the project.

And, of course, there is me. Mark McKoy, the DOE Environmental Manager and DOE NEPA Document Manager for FutureGen.

Also I want to recognize the team that has worked so hard to prepare the Draft EIS. That team is composed of

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Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Tetra Tech and Louis Berger; and we have with us this evening Fred Carey, who is the President of Potomac-Hudson Engineering. And the person who has endured the most in assembling this document -- she has put in countless hours and produced an excellent document for to us review -- Debra Walker, the NEPA Project Manager.

And I would like for all of the members present of the Potomac-Hudson, Tetra Tech, Louis Berger team to please stand up and be recognized.

And now it's time to, to give you a few presentations and provide you with some background information regarding the project.

Here is Tom Sarkus with the DOE role in the project.

(Applause.)

TOM SARKUS: Thank you. And you're clapping and you haven't heard my speech yet. I hope you're happy after.

Good evening. I have, on the screen, a nighttime photo of Tampa Electric's Integrated Gasification Combined-Cycle Power Plant. It is one of just two coal-based IGCC plants in the United States. You may be aware of the other one in Wabash River near Terre Haute. And one of only six in the world. It's top dispatch unit in Tampa Electric's

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generating system. And it's been operating since September of 1996. I know all of that because I had the distinct privilege of supervising the Department of Energy's funding and cosponsorship for the Tampa and Wabash River IGCC plants.

But with operational plants having designs that are in most cases over 10 and approaching 15 years old at this point, it's time to build upon the lessons that have been learned from operating those plants and to bring on the next generation of clean-coal technologies. And that includes FutureGen.

When Wabash River and Tampa were designed in the early 1990's, if you think back, key external drivers were sulphur and nitrogen oxide emissions that were relevant to acid rain. Acid rain was the dominant environmental issue at that time.

We also had to focus on the technical challenge of combining and effectively integrating a coal gasification plant with a combined cycle power plant.

When you see this acronym IGCC, the CC is as important as the G. I sense, a lot of times, people focus on the gasification part of it. But it's really integrating those two pieces.

Today we have additional environmental drivers that

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really weren't at the forefront 10 or 15 years ago. And

these are things, like mercury and carbon dioxide which is relevant to climate change. These drivers are going to require us to integrate additional processes and improvements in equipment into the coal-based power plants of tomorrow.

You've probably heard a lot of about FutureGen in the context of a technology-based, mitigation strategy for climate change. That is, you've probably heard that FutureGen will produce and separate hydrogen and carbon dioxide using the hydrogen to produce electric power and then storing the CO-2 in deep saline aquifers.

When, when I mention that concept, a lot of times people ask me, is there enough underground storage capacity for all of the CO-2. And that's where this slide comes in. It pairs major CO-2 sources in North America with major CO-2 storage reservoirs.

You can see that we produce approximately 3.8 gigatons a year of CO-2 and that there are 3,800 gigatons of geologic storage capacity. That is a thousand years of storage capacity in these geologic reservoirs. That should be more than enough given that we only have a 250-year supply of coal in North America.

FutureGen is currently estimated to cost 1.757

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billion dollars or we round that to 1.8 billion dollars. And that includes approximately 1.5, 1-and-a-half billion dollars to design and build the plant and the geologic storage facilities. It also includes $300 million to operate those facilities for 3 years.

We estimate that FutureGen will generate about $300 million in electricity revenues during those 3 years which will be used largely to offset the cost of operating the plant. FutureGen is being implemented through a cooperative agreement between DOE and the FutureGen Industrial Alliance. The alliance consists of twelve coal mining and coal based power companies, and their corporate logos are all shown here.

Cooperative agreement or the contract, if you will, that I work from and the Alliance works from, is structured around six budget periods which are shown on this schedule. We recently transitioned from Budget Period Zero, which was project structuring and conceptual design, into Budget Period 1, or preliminary design.

Over the past year, you've read a lot of news articles; and, as you know, much work is a centered on the site selection process and conceptual design of both the power plant and sequestration fuel.

But over the next year, some of that focus is going

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to shift toward selecting technology and equipment suppliers for major portions of the FutureGen Project. Design will continue into the spring of 2009. And construction will run through 2011, followed by shake down and start up.

We expect to begin commercial operations of FutureGen by the end of 2012. DOE and the FutureGen Alliance are splitting the project costs 74 to 26 percent. And we also

have international participation in the project. Foreign companies may, and have, joined the Alliance as equal members, while foreign government contributions are counted on the government side of the project ledger.

We hope to secure at least $80 million from foreign governments at $10 million each. And so far, four countries have announced their intention to join. Those countries being: India, South Korea, China, and Japan. And DOE is working to develop an international agreement that will facilitate their support.

Here's my contact information. Thank you for your kind attention. I look forward to hearing your comments later on.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: Next we would hear from Mike Mudd,

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the CEO for the FutureGen Alliance and discussing the project overview and update.

MIKE MUDD: Thank you. Good evening.

On behalf of the FutureGen Team, I want to thank you for coming out. It's fantastic to see such a large crowd here on such a wonderful summer evening.

I'd just like to remind you why we're here. We're all here because, in February of last year, the Alliance issued a RFP saying we have this wonderful project; who wants to bring FutureGen in their town. Twelve cities rose up in seven states and say we want FutureGen in our towns. We went through a very rigorous process, not based on politics but based on the quality of the proposals and quality of the sites.

Based on that process, we chose four sites. And this site is one of the sites here, which is why we are here. And the reason that we're here, also, is because of the hard work that was done by the Illinois FutureGen Team under the leadership of Jack Lavin and Bill Hoback.

The document that you see in the back, the Environmental Impact Statement, while there was a lot of work by the Department of Energy and by PHE, a lot of work was done by the people in this room as they dedicated themselves over the past year and a half to put together

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the necessary data to support the DOE with their very, very fast schedule.

So, I do want to say that it's a privilege and an honor to be here. I'm very impressed with support for the sites. I'm impressed with your state's. And I also want to mention that it takes not only the support here, locally, but the support in Washington. And I'd like, I have had the honor and privilege of meeting some of your wonderful congressmen. And while your whole congressional delegation is wonderful, Congressmen Shimkus, Costello and Johnson have been staunch supporters, not only of FutureGen but coal, but also coal in Washington.

And I want to publicly acknowledge the fact their important dedication toward this work is a testimony to your state.

So, with that, I'd like to pass it on Jerry Oliver who can talk about the project itself. Thank you.

(Applause.)

JERRY OLIVER: Thank you, Mike. Good evening. It's really a pleasure to be back. You know I was here 10 months ago; and it seems like yesterday to me and, I think, to a lot of others that have been working on this thing.

In the last 10 months, we've accomplished a lot. And when I say we, we includes the, the local team here. It

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includes the state team. As Mike said, what they've done with DOE. It includes the DOE, itself. It includes the Alliance, the Alliance members and the Alliance partners.

So we've had a pretty good relationship. We've actually moved the ball a long ways, and what I'd like to do is update you all from where we were back, back last August to where we are now.

So, to start with, just a quick background. We're building the world's first coal-fueled power plant. We're going to take out 9 percent of the CO-2. We're going to put at least a million tons of that underground and sequester it, which means to store it in long-term, put it into a deep saline aquifer or formation. And you've seen some good examples back there of that, those of you who have been able to see the slides. It's tremendous to look at what that's about.

But we're building a research platform that actually will give us the ability to test technology as we go forward into the future. We're doing it with the help of private partnership. And we're trying to really involve as many folks, both locally and around the globe, as we can.

Our goals, our objectives are fairly simple. We are designing and we're going to build and operate a near-zero emission plant, as I've said. We're going to put a million

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tons, at least, of CO-2 underground in storage. We believe that it can be maintained underground in a very benign manner. We're going to produce very low levels of NOx and SOx and mercury and particulate matter. And we're to be on-line by 2012.

We're also going to push technology in a way where what we do will be used around the globe. So not only do we want to make this facility work, but we want to take the technologies that we put together here and make sure that they're both economically make sense as well as environmentally as we go forward. And we want to build relationships with people that are involved in this so that you really want technology like this here and everywhere else that it can be.

Why do we need to do this? First of all, we are going to prove that you can sequester, you can store carbon dioxide in deep formations and you can do it for a long time. And we will do a large scale, technical and economic test of CO-2 storage.

We're also developing, or will develop, or have helped develop a regulatory framework to allow this to be used here and elsewhere.

This is a very unique opportunity to advance technology. We're going to push the envelope. Every piece

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of this plant. We're going to move the ball just a little further along than it has been. And putting all that together, this plant will be one of the cleanest that you have in the globe.

Because it is a research platform and because it is being put together the way it is, we are already ahead of what else is being done around the globe in this area. And, and it is our intention to stay there as we go forward. And because we have international participation in both the Alliance and in the DOE part of the organization, we are basically proving, or will prove, that you could do this anywhere in the globe.

Not to repeat what Tom said, we have twelve partners. Twelve of the largest companies are members. Twelve of the largest members in the world that are related to global coal mining as well as coal power production. We also have the involvement of the Department of Energy as both a partner as well as financially involved. And, as they said, they're bringing in other countries in there so that we get as much a breadth of coverage as we possibly can.

In addition to that, we have Battelle with us who is one of the leading R and D firms in the United States and some of those individuals have been here tonight to help

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talk about the technology and what we're doing.

We have engaged, globally, some of the best people in the world to understand every bit of what we're trying to do and to bring in ideas, solutions, or issues so that we do this thing right and do it right the first time.

And lastly, we just brought in the Washington Group as our engineering contractor. And they're starting to do design, which they'll talk about in a second.

So we're, we're advancing integrated gasification combined cycle technology, ICC technology. We're going to design it so we can operate on eastern and western coals. Illinois coals. We'll probably access coals from other parts of the globe, and it's a little bit different. But the idea is to be fuel flexible.

We're going to push, as I said, every piece of this thing so that the gasification technology is better than what we've seen in the past, that the gas turbines operating on hydrogen and at better levels and that we bring together other technologies that will actually help to enhance the facility.

We're going to integrate the C0-2 capture with the rest of the facility which has not been done. So, not only will we have a power plant with low emissions, but we're going to have them integrating with the CO-2 coming out as

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part of the process.

And lastly, we're creating a test bed with this plant so that we can test other technologies and so that we can get the opportunity at a commercial scale to try other

things.

Um, from the standpoint of sequestration -- and again not to repeat what's already been said -- but we are focused on deep saline formations because they are so prevalent around the globe. And, as Tom said, you've got, we've got 3 or 4,000, there's 4,000 gigatons of storage in the United States which would represent a thousand years. But around the globe, we have at least 11,000 gigatons, which means that, if we can do it here and do it around the globe, we truly will impact on CO-2 use and our CO-2 goal as emissions in the world.

And we're building some of the most sophisticated models; and, and we're going to push the envelope on what we call monitoring the verification program to really understand what happens at 8,000 foot down in the CO-2. So the object is to really use this in a way where you can take it out and, again, repeat it and, and use it in other places.

We're moving from conceptual design to preliminary design. And, and we've looked at a variety of ways to

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build this plant. And we brought that down at the end of last year to three. And we did mass balances around those cost estimates. We, we built enough satisfaction or enough competence so we could actually do this plant from that basis. So we carried it to the next step. And now we're moving it down to a single design.

And we have Washington Group leading that effort. So we're taking all the work that we've done. Now we're focusing on making this a single plant that kind of goes and flows together.

And in the next week or so we'll be out in the market place starting to look for technology pieces and suppliers who will make up the components of the plant.

As Tom talked about the capital cost of the plans, about 1.5 billion. The other $300 million was the cost of coal, which is during the operating side. So the same number is up there, 1.5 billion. Essentially the same schedule Tom showed you, that the key things to me are that in 2009 we will be in the ground digging. In 2012, we'll start the plant. So to do that, we need to carry the front end through and actually start, or finish the preliminary design and the final design within the next several months, next year.

What are we doing right now?

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Right now, we're doing preliminary design. Surface, subsurface. We're working out what technologies make the most sense and why. And we've got people going around the globe looking at what technologies are being used now that could fit and understanding the issue with those.

But we have been doing, as a lot of people in here know, a lot of work on site abilities. We have looked at this site about every way you can. And over the next several weeks, we will continue to do that, to really understand the goods, the bads and all parts of the site. And the four sites that we have to deal with are excellent

sites. And, and this is an extremely difficult decision. So to look at the site is, has been an extremely important.

We did come out with our guidance on our final offer -- which I'll talk about in just a second -- just in the last few weeks. And we have been supporting the DOE and, and the states and their activities on the EIS process and on these hearings.

Okay. So what are we doing right now that kind of affects, directly, here?

We came out on the 15th with guidance on the best and final offer that, it should lead to a proposal to us on August the 1st. The EIS process, right now, should get

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done about the end of August. And if it gets done at the end of August, we'll make a decision in November. Once that decision is made, the next day we will be on-site ready to start. So we're, we are planning to move as rapidly as we can to keep bringing this project forward.

So kind of a quick summary. The project is, is moving fast. We are essentially on track to where we're trying to go. And I've appreciated and we've appreciated all the help and support and the opportunity to kind of update you on what we're doing.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: Thanks, Jerry. Thanks, Mike, for the update on the project.

Last August when we were here, I went over the most important elements of NEPA and tried to explain the process to you. I know that some of you here tonight maybe were not here then. I will go over, again, the most salient aspects of NEPA and then sort of let you know where we're at in the process.

NEPA stands for the National Environmental Policy Act. It is a federal law, federal statute. It became effective January 1, 1970. It applies to all federal agencies. It does not apply to state agencies or to local

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governments or to private individuals or private organizations. Only to federal agencies.

It has often been referred to as the National Charter for Protection of the Environment because it was the first step to broadly encompass environmental concerns. Basically, it promotes environmental considerations in the federal, decision-making process.

The NEPA mandate is that environmental information must be available to public officials and citizens before federal decisions are made and before federal actions are taken. It must be based on high-quality information. There should be scientific analyses, and those analyses should be accurate.

There is a requirement that federal agencies have an expertise in the relevant subjects, have an opportunity to review and comment on the document.

We also make the document available to state agencies and local government agencies for their review and

comments. And, of course, we are required to provide an opportunity for public involvement in the process.

And that's why we're here this evening at a public hearing. It's to invite comments from interested or effected persons and organizations on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

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Appropriate comments address the adequacy of the EIS, the merits of the alternatives where the proposed federal action is specially relevant to the environmental impacts.

We are in the middle of the process. We have prepared a draft document. That document has been distributed to the public so that the public can review the document. We will take all of the comments that we receive and address those comments in the final EIS. Then that final EIS will be distributed to the public. No sooner than 30 days thereafter, the DOE can issue a record at decision.

DOE does have some responsibilities in terms of addressing the comments. The DOE must consider comments both individually and collectively. DOE must respond to public comments in the final EIS by one of the following methods:

DOE can modify the alternatives.

DOE can evaluate alternatives not given previous, not previously given serious consideration.

DOE can supplement, improve, or modify analyses and make factual corrections.

Otherwise, DOE must explain why comments do not warrant further agency response.

We will take all of the substantive comments and

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include them in an appendix to the final EIS.

As I mentioned a moment ago, we are at the middle of the process. We are now holding the public hearings, as indicated there for June of this year. We hope to have the final EIS out to the public sometime in September of this year. If so, then we're able, perhaps, to reach a record of decision in October of this year.

DOE does want your participation. We take very seriously our responsibilities to provide for public participation, to get your input and your comments and your concerns over the proposed action.

Please send your written comments to me, the NEPA Document Manager, at Mail Stop N03, PO Box 880, Morgantown, West Virginia, 26507-0880. You can also send e-mails to FutureGen.EIS@NETL.DOE.GOV.

And, again, the comment period closes July 16. If you're sending regular mail to me, it must be postmarked by that date; although we will consider late comments to the extent that we can.

This is the time to begin the formal comment period when the public is invited to provide oral comments regarding the adequacy of the EIS, the merits of the alternatives and the proposed federal action especially relative to environmental impacts.

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For those of you providing oral comments, we ask that you keep your comments to within a 5-minute time frame. This allows us to make sure everyone has equal opportunity to provide comments. You may speak a second time after everyone has a first chance to speak.

It is important to make your views known, either now, in oral statements, or in writing. Again, you can use the comment cards that we have at the back. These comment cards have some check boxes where you can check if you want to receive a copy of the final EIS. You can check indicating that you want a hard copy or that you would like to receive a CD and a hard copy of the summary.

Please put your address on here so that we know where to send the document. If you would like to receive a copy of the Draft EIS which we have recently put out, just write into the comment session that you would like to receive a copy of the Draft EIS and, again, provide us with the address to mail it to. Put a postage stamp on the back; and, again, make sure you have these postmarked before July 16.

Again, all comments will be considered equally as we continue development of the Final EIS.

And I have a slide here with a few of the rules, again, to quickly go over them for making comments.

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Please, 5 minutes per speaker. I hope to be able to give people at least two opportunities to speak. So if you don't have enough time in the first 5 minutes, after everyone has a chance, I'll give people a chance to come back up.

Government officials and preregistered speakers go first, and I will open it up to the floor and invite other people to come up.

A transcript is being made. We have a court reporter here making a transcript; so, when you come up to speak, please provide your name. You may need to spell your name. Please speak clearly so that the transcript will be accurate. A copy of the transcript of this meeting will be available at the Mattoon Public Library within a few weeks and will be a part of the Final EIS.

The first commenter on the list will be Phil Bloomer representing US Representative Johnson.

PHIL BLOOMER: Good evening. Tim can't be here tonight. He'd much rather be here than where he is, which is in Washington, D.C. But this matters a great deal to him, so he asked me to come instead.

I was looking through the file on this project today. And I noticed that he'd been writing letters advocating for this since 2002. So it's been close to his

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heart for a long time. And it's good for Mattoon. It's good for this district. It's good for the nation and the environment for a lot of reasons. And the state folks here and the people from Mattoon have put all of those reasons down in voluminous and arcane and esoteric detail.

But one of the things Tim talks about a lot is that there are less quantifiable reasons for bringing a project

such as this here. And that has to do with the nature of the people who live and work here. There is a level of integrity and a work ethic that is part of our culture of the Midwest in Central Illinois. We're pretty proud of it. And we need to underscore that and tell these people that we're the best place for it to be.

So know that Tim Johnson is working on your behalf and let's put our best foot forward. I won't take any more of your time. This meeting this evening is for you to express your opinions not for public officials like me. They've all heard from people like me.

Thank you.

MARK MC KOY: Thank you.

The next commenter is Jack Lavin, Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity speaking on behalf of the State of Illinois.

JACK LAVIN: Thank you, Mark.

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My name is Jack Lavin. I'm the Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. I am Governor Rod Blagojevich's point person on the FutureGen Project. And on behalf of Governor Rod Blagojevich, it's my pleasure to welcome, back to Illinois, the US Department of Energy officials, Mark McKoy and Tom Sarkus and the FutureGen Industrial Alliance, Mike Mudd and Jerry Oliver, to Illinois for another round of public hearing which are critical next step for this important selection process.

We have been actively engaged in this process for more than 4 years. And, as you can see, there is a high level of energy, buzz, and excitement surrounding FutureGen and its impact on our state, the country, and the world.

My many thanks to Mayor Charlie White and Angela Griffin, President of Coles Together, as well as all of today's attendees for their continued participation and enthusiasm throughout the process.

This has truly been a partnership, from the beginning, with local, state, and federal government. You've heard representatives from Senator Durbin and Obama, Congressman Shimkus, Phil Bloomer with Congressman Johnson's office, Congressman Costello and all of the delegation in Washington, D.C. are very engaged in this

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project.

I also want to recognize our state legislators, State Senator Dale Righter, State Representative Chapin Rose, have been very active in Springfield advocating for this project. And I want to thank them.

I also want to recognize Bill Hoback, the Director of the Illinois Office of Coal Development at DCO and his team who have been the resident experts and advocates for FutureGen.

And as a former coal miner, Bill Hoback, no one better understands the importance of clean coal technology and the significance of FutureGen. And everything I've learned about coal is from Bill Hoback. So, Bill, thank you and your team for all the hard work that you've done in

putting our application together and getting Mattoon and Tuscola into the final four.

I also want to recognize our partners in labor that are here. Alan Wente, with the Lincoln Land Building and Trades. Evan Sink with the United Mine Workers. The AFL-CIO has been very supportive in working with us in Springfield. Phil Vanette of the Illinois Coal Association. University of Illinois. Southern Illinois University. Eastern Illinois University. It's really been a great partnership.

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And I say this. FutureGen is, indeed, the future of energy. And I'm here today to tell you that Illinois is ready for FutureGen.

I say this to the Department of Energy, the FutureGen Industrial Alliance, the people of the State of Illinois and the folks at Mattoon and Tuscola, the foundation is poured. The house is built. And the table is set. We reached this point with quiet confidence and high anticipation. And we have benefited from the input of people from throughout Illinois, including planners, elected officials, business leaders, farmers, laborers and some of the top scientific and engineering talent from anywhere in the world.

There may be no economic development project in the history of this state that approaches the scope of FutureGen. And the local communities here at East Central Illinois and the hard-working people who live in Coles and Douglas counties have met every challenge along the way. This region wants to show the world how to use coal cleanly, to capture and store CO-2.

We have worked creatively, cooperatively on solutions to complex problems and nurtured each other as valued partners in this endeavor which will pay dividends for decades to come.

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We have said all along that Illinois is the place for FutureGen, based on the merit of the these two sites, alone. And I feel more confident of that today than of any time in the past. Some of the best minds in the state have helped us in reaching this stage. We have had top to bottom cooperation from government and private sector; and we wouldn't be here today if we didn't have absolutely the best local partners possible in Angela Griffin and Brian Moody and their respective FutureGen teams.

As we head down the home stretch, I'd like to reiterate all the distinct advantages Illinois offers FutureGen, starting with our geology. Illinois is blessed with the geology to demonstrate this breakthrough technology as well and probably better than anywhere in the United States, including our competitors in Texas.

We have deep, thick, porous sandstone reservoirs and the safety margin of at least two cap rock seals, never before penetrated. Illinois, in addition, offers a platform from a geology standpoint that will maximize the transferability and the FutureGen technology to cites throughout the United States and the world.

We have been examining and documenting this potential with the help of top scientists in this region for more than 3 years.

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From a water standpoint, both sites offer more than the ample water for FutureGen's needs and do so at a reasonable cost without negatively impacting current or future water supply in the region.

Our location. Among other advantages, our sites our almost ideally situated in relation to the nation's major coal fields, saving the Alliance millions of dollars every year in rail costs as well as further minimizing the carbon profile of the project.

Leadership. The project has garnered bipartizan support from elected Illinois leaders in Congress and in Springfield. And we, as a state, particularly under Governor Rod Blagojevich, have never lost faith in a long term potential for Illinois coal.

We have the research capacity. We have leading coal research institutions supporting Illinois' bid for FutureGen, including Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and our partner state, Indiana's Purdue University. Two of the top coal research centers in the nation.

And by the way, we do have the governor of Indiana's support. And we're working on and I think we have Kentucky's support. And we'll soon have other states' support.

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And we have the University of Illinois, premier research university with the Number 4 Engineering Program in the country; and right in our own, right in our backyard here, a top state university at Eastern Illinois University.

Illinois' investment package includes an unmatched $17 million grant to the FutureGen Alliance. In addition, we have committed the Illinois State Geological Survey and some of the nation's top scientists in their field to oversee the long-term monitoring of CO-2 once it is captured and stored. In addition, we have low-interest loans through our Illinois Finance Authority and various tax credits through our Enterprise Zones.

As I have emphasized, as I emphasized at the last round of FutureGen hearings, Illinois is a coal state, not an oil and gas state. We have demonstrated our belief in coal through investments of millions of dollars in the development and deployment of clean coal technology. We have, in the past several weeks, permitted the first two coal gasification projects to be advanced anywhere in America in the past 20 years. And we are very close to permitting and breaking ground on the gasification project in far northwestern Illinois that will make nitrogen fertilizer from coal and quite significantly begin

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producing for US consumption the first low-suffer, diesel motor fuel made from Illinois coal.

The fundamentals for FutureGen are in place. Water,

geology, location, economics, research, political leadership and community support with all of you here tonight.

With science on our side and all of these strategic assets, we are confident that the world's cleanest coal plant will be built in our state and be successful.

It is a marriage made in heaven. We're all here today because we share in this vision and we believe in the possibilities of this facility to change the way we look at energy production.

And as I have said many times, FutureGen needs Illinois; and Illinois needs FutureGen.

Thank you very much for all of you being here tonight.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: Thank you Jack.

The next commenter on the list is State Representative Chapin Rose.

CHAPIN ROSE: Welcome. Welcome to Illinois. Welcome to chairmen and advisors. It was nice to talk to you earlier. Welcome to this wonderful school here in

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Mattoon.

We are very excited to have you here this evening, and I know that Director Lavin is going to talk a lot about really the team effort that's gone into FutureGen Illinois.

I represent both sites in both locations; and unfortunately, this may be my only opportunity to address the crowd. Because we're due back at Springfield tomorrow through Saturday; so I may not be in Tuscola.

I want to take just this quick opportunity to highlight a few of the items that Jack talked about. The geology is here. The technology is here. And the coal is here. And I know Jack just did it much more eloquently than I can, but let's just take a look around East Central Illinois and look at what we have to offer.

We've got wonderful schools. We have wonderful health care opportunities. You have diversity. Lakeland College. Our new interim president from Lakeland is sitting back here, Scott Lensink is here tonight. You've got the University of Illinois to the north; and, of course, you've got Southern Illinois and their coal research center. All of these resources are at your disposal. And I will do everything I can to help make the state resources be at your disposal.

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This, truly, has been a team effort. In my 5 years in Springfield, I've never quite seen anything like it. Having grown up a short ways from here in Charleston, a little over ten miles to the east, we've even got Charleston and Mattoon working together in a team partnership to bring FutureGen to East Central Illinois.

We are very excited to have you. I want to close, just briefly, by saying some quick thank yous, primarily, to Angela and Brian from Tuscola and Mattoon and Phil Hoback, Director Lavin, and Governor Rod Blagojevich.

We are very excited to have you here.
The geology is here. The technology is here. The coal is here. We want FutureGen to be here in Illinois.
Thank you very much.
(Applause.)
MARK MC KOY: The next commenter is Ann Short, Mayor of Sullivan.
ANN SHORT: Good evening. I want to welcome you all to Central Illinois, again. I am Ann Short. I'm the Mayor of Sullivan; and that's located just 15 miles down Illinois Route 121, right on the proposed site in Mattoon. And as mayor, I want to express to you support of the City Council and the citizens of Sullivan for the construction of FutureGen at that site.

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I'm also a member of the Sullivan Chamber and Economic Development Board, which also supports the construction of FutureGen here. Both these organizations feel that locating the site in Illinois would be a tremendous plus for Central Illinois.
However, locating it in Mattoon would be a great benefit for the Sullivan community. The Sullivan community can offer the employees of FutureGen, both in construction and long term, the opportunity for first-class recreation at our Lake Shelbyville. We can also offer cultural entertainment through our Little Theater on the Square, which is a professional equity theater who offers performances year-round. And we also a have available housing opportunities in Sullivan and have a first-rate school system that can accommodate many new students.
The Sullivan community believes that there will be an economic opportunity for current businesses to expand and for the development of new businesses to serve the needs of the FutureGen operation. The Sullivan Chamber and Economic Development Board is working with our local businesses to determine what products and services we can provide for FutureGen and encouraging those businesses to be ready to step forward when the site is selected.
Again, we're thrilled that you have chosen these

0038

sites in Illinois; and we hope to see you return soon with a positive decision.
Thank you.
(Applause.)
MARK MC KOY: The next commenter is Angela Griffin with Coles Together.
ANGELA GRIFFIN: On behalf of Coles Together, the City of Mattoon, again, welcome to everyone tonight.
Of course, it's always good to see the Mayor, the Honorable Charlie White. Mayor, thank you for your leadership on this important project. And it's important to remember that John Inyart, the Mayor of Charleston and Charleston City Council has provided important leadership on the project, as well.
As Mr. McKoy, explained, we're here tonight to take comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that's been published. The Mattoon team has had an opportunity to

review the Environmental Impact Statement, and we have found it to be extremely thorough in its analyses.

The conclusions and the impacts reported appear to be based on adequate documentation and supporting data. We also found it to be consistent with the data that we generated when we were doing our own research and testing and providing information for the environmental impact

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volumes which were used in producing the Environmental Impact Statement.

But we're here tonight to hear your opinions of the environmental impact statement. We encourage you to use this opportunity to express your views and ask questions. We're committed not only to the integrity of this project but also to the integrity of this process, and your participation tonight will help maintain both.

Thank you for coming out, and thank you for your support.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: The next commenter on the list is Kent Metzger.

KENT METZGER: Good evening. Thank you. My name is Kent Metzger, and I am a neighbor to FutureGen and also a supporter of FutureGen. So I want to, first, thank you for the opportunity to speak and give me an opportunity to review the report.

I have one comment on the report, and then I want to go into some other things and my thoughts on the, on FutureGen.

In the report, under the climate section, it said that all four sites subject to permanent drought and severe drought. I think there's an issue of magnitude of scale

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there. What's a drought in Illinois is a wet season in Texas. And, when it comes to water and availability, I think Illinois has Texas hands down on water.

As you can see, we're kind of in a drought right now; and the corn is 6, 7 feet tall and starting to tassel. And if there was a drought in Texas right now, the sagebrush would be dead, so.

Also, I believe that Odessa, Texas, the evaporation rate is about three times what it is in Mattoon and Tuscola. And Jewett, Texas is about twice that. So, even when we get the rain, at least we can hang on to it here in Illinois.

I want to give you a couple perspectives as a neighbor. And not only am I a neighbor, but I'm also an engineer, have a couple of businesses here in town, one engineering firm, one contracting firm. My background is in mining and engineering. I've worked in the coal industry and been in the consulting business for 19 years now. So I've got a little bit of technical experience when it comes to these issues.

But some of the issues that came up and I think are concerns as, as neighbors and as people in the community is, 1. What's this place going to look like? Esthetically, is it going to be a pleasing site?

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And I would hope -- and I throw this out there to everyone involved -- that since this is going to be a show place for technology, that it also be a show place that is esthetically pleasing to the community. If we're going to be bringing world travellers in to check this facility out, we want them to be impressed with your facility and our community, as well. We're going to do our best to make you proud of our town.

In reviewing the report, I noticed that there was going to be a 250-foot high stack. You know, in corn country that sounds like a pretty tall, tall stack. So I went around, and I tried to figure out what in the area is 250 feet high.

A mile-and-a-half northwest of the site there's a grain elevator at Coles Station. And that elevator is about a hundred and eighty feet tall. I don't think a 250-foot stack, a mile-and-a-half from a hundred eighty foot high grain elevator is really going to stand out, so.

And then as I drove around the area and if you go out in the parking lot here tonight on the way out and you look to the northwest, you can't even see that grain elevator. Because, even though we think we live in flat corn country, there is topography here and there are trees here. So, esthetically, I don't think that's going to be an issue. I

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think people will become, it's going to become so common place seeing a stack that they'll be oblivious to it. I think probably most of the people that came in on 121 didn't notice that grain elevator that is a hundred eighty feet tall. So I think that's the one issue that, that we'll just come to grips with and will get common place to see it.

Another issue is, I know people are going to be upset, we're taking crop production out and we're going to build a plant there. You know, one of the things we're going to replace that field with is a lake. And most people don't really mind looking at lakes. And it's going to be a good-sized lake. So, you know, probably 40 or 50 acre region.

Another issue, esthetically, is high-tension transmission lines. I also challenge everybody in this room to name the number of high-tension transmission lines they saw on the way to the school tonight. And there are some within eyesight. If I looked out the window right now, I could see them. People don't notice these things. Esthetically, they're common place.

Another issue, noise. You know from the new journey point, there are a lot of ways to handle noise. And I'm sure that those will come into consideration with this

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plant. If we're going to dig a 450 acre lake, we're going to have plenty of dirt to build berms to attenuate that noise.

And where I live, a-mile-and-a-quarter west of the property, I live in a wooded area. And I can say, without a doubt, that in the winter it's louder in my yard than it

is in the summer. It's because there are trees there, and those trees block the noise. So we throw up a berm -- I think that sounds easy -- we put a berm in with the plants and trees. We're in control of the noise with natural features.

In my experience working in the coal mines, I know there are different ways to handle coal, some are noisier than others. I hope that the methodology we use are the quietest methods possible. We don't have to clang cars together to dump them. They can be placed on a, and pivoted while they're all connected. You don't have that loud banging and this and that.

And we have a coal, we have a train track right there. And I feel my house rumble every once in a while. And that's going to continue. But you know it's going to continue whether this plant is there or not. So the benefits outweigh the problems with having more trains.

Another issue is site lighting and light pollution.

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We live in the country. We like living in the country. But there are ways, engineering ways, to control that light to avoid as much light pollution as possible to where it's minimum.

Another issue is roads and traffic. You know, I touched on the train issue. We have trains. We'll have a few more trains, probably three trains a week. I think three trains a week is a good trade off for what we're going to get out of this plant.

And we're going to have trucks. And, during construction, we're going to have a lot of trucks. But, as I was looking around the area, the 200 East Road, which is the east property line of the property, it's an asphalt road. It's going to handle a lot of traffic. We're going to have a lot of dirt and dust from the road traffic. Obviously, we're going to have some dirt and dust during construction. That what water trucks are for. And that's the way construction sites work. So we can come to grips with that.

And another issue is community safety. And they're going to be generating some chemicals there and some materials on-site which are potentially hazardous. But, again, we're used to being around those things. We take them for granted.

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This school is within 3/4 of a mile of at least three manufacturing facilities where they handle materials that could be harmful to us as citizens.

There is also an anhydrous ammonia plant within a very short distance of that. One of the most dangerous chemicals in our area is anhydrous ammonia. And we're so used to it that we don't even take it into consideration a lot of times. If you speak with the fire fighters and they talk about dealing with chemical control in an accident, ammonia, ammonia is one of the biggest things they have to be concerned with.

And, also, explosion. Everybody says it's going to blow it up. It's going to take out the school and this and

that.
The other, one of the most common explosion hazards in our area or in the world is grain dust explosion. Again, we're used to that. There are risks in everything we do, but I believe that FutureGen beyond payment and technology is also going to be faded as taking care of our area and the safety of our people.
So, with that, thank you.
(Applause.)
MARK MC KOY: The next commenter on the list is Tom Donnell, Local Affairs Committee, Coles County Farm

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Bureau and farmer.
TOM DONNELL: Thank you. I'll try to be brief. I've had a long day. I buried my very best friend of 53 years today, but I feel so strongly about this project that I came here tonight.
There are some other farmers in the audience that will speak in event we have a lot of negative talkers. Otherwise, I'll be the only farmer, I guess, that will be speaking. They allowed me to speak, because I like to talk.
Okay. The EIS states that 200 acres of farmland will be converted for use for the power plant site. As a farmer and a member of the Coles County Farm Bureau, I have no objection to this, particularly in light of the fact that the use is to construct and demonstrate that we could use coal efficiently without contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.
Keep in mind that a lot of this land can still be used for farm services. Also, for anyone who is concerned about loss of farmland, putting the project in Mattoon ultimately converts less farmland because Mattoon is the only proposed site that can accommodate the injection well on-site for the CO-2.
Almost everything has been covered here tonight

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except one thing; and Mr. Oliver stated this or touched on it when he spoke. Mr. Oliver stated that we, that we want to use this technology around the globe in all types of weather and all climates, South Africa, India, China, South Korea, Japan. You name it.
300 days ago I spoke here and I brought up something very important. Illinois has different types of weather. We have extreme cold. We have extreme hot and humid. Our competing state has the same type of weather all the time. The same boring, long weather all the time.
(Laughter.)
So if we want to prove that this can be used around the world, we need to locate it in Illinois.
I am really amazed at the folks that put together the Environmental Impact Statement. In 21 simple page, they put a lot of information in here. But looking at this statement, I have to wonder why we have to bother to hold a hearing here tonight; because, obviously, the two Texas sites just don't qualify.
(Laughter.)

Read the statement and you'll see what I mean.
It has to be either Mattoon and or Tuscola; and Mattoon is slightly ahead of Tuscola.
(Laughter.)

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Gentlemen, I do hope that you let Mr. Nolte get his corn harvested before we start construction; but let's start construction soon.
Thank you.
MARK MC KOY: The next commenter is Jim McShane, Crossroads Workforce Investment Board.
MARK MC SHANE: Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The Crossroads Workforce Investment Board happens to cover 14 counties which includes both locations. And the board is very excited about the opportunity that's here that we can see develop in our area. We're concerned about having enough folks that are trained in order to build this project. And, working with the trades, we've supported some of what they're doing to recruit. We're looking at the job potential and also the income generation that this will help in our region.
And I really appreciate the leadership Jack Lavin has had on the state end and the local team that has really put a lot of work into this. And we want to be big supporters of this. Our board supports this a hundred percent.
Thank you.
(Applause.)
MARK MC KOY: The next commenter on the list is Phil Gonet, Illinois Coal Social.

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PHIL GONET: Good evening. My name is Phil Gonet. I'm the President of the Illinois Coal Association.
On behalf of our industry, I enthusiastically welcome you to our state. We, in the coal industry, are very excited about this project. As you may know, you may not know, and I wanted to bring in a few facts that may not be covered in your Environmental Impact Statement, about coal.
We have a long history of safe and successful coal mining here in Illinois. The first commercial coal mining actually started in 1810 in Jackson County. And by the 1880's, coal mining was well established and fueling the power needs of both Chicago and St. Louis.
The Illinois Coal Association, by the way, started in 1878; so we have a long history here. But even more impressive than our history is the abundance of coal. And I'm sure you know that. But I'm not sure everyone in the audience knows that's here tonight.
We are known as the Saudi Arabia of coal. In fact, the energy content of our coal is greater than the energy content of the oil in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait combined. As you probably know from the Illinois State Geological Survey, our coal reserves, recoverable reserves are over

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100 billion tons of coal.
And to put that in a perspective, one of the earliest

speakers talked about how much capacity we have in the United States to store CO-2. To give you an example of how much coal we have in Illinois, our country used 1.1 billion tons of coal last year. So we, in Illinois have enough coal to power this country for the next 100 years. So this is an abundance of coal here in Illinois you find nowhere else in the country. One other state, Montana, which is not in the running for this project, actually does have more coal than us in Illinois.

So this project is important to Illinois. It's important to the economy of the United States. That's one thing that hasn't come up tonight, the economic value of energy to this country. 52 percent of our energy in the United States, right now, comes from coal. And we need to find a way to burn that coal more cleanly and more environmentally friendly. And this project will do this.

So, to mirror the slogan that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has come up with:

The state needs FutureGen. The country needs FutureGen. In fact, the world needs FutureGen. But FutureGen needs Illinois.

So we welcome you here, and we hope to have you

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back. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: The next commenter on the list is Larry Lilly, Mattoon Schools.

LARRY LILLY: Good evening. My name is Larry Lilly; and as Superintendent of the Mattoon schools, I am pleased to publicly welcome representatives of FutureGen and all of you to Riddle Elementary School.

As you can imagine, we are extremely proud of our wonderful educational facilities here in Mattoon. In 2003, we opened this beautiful elementary school along with Williams Elementary School which is an identical building on the other side of town.

Over the past 2 years, we've completed extensive remodel of Mattoon High School and are now in the process of our final building upgrades to our middle school.

Our facilities were built and renovated with community growth in mind and we believe are among the finest in the state. As a result, Mattoon schools are now in the position to welcome an influx of FutureGen families and their children to our 21st century classrooms.

We invite you to tour our facilities and meet our staff and talk with our parents and students. In so doing, we are confident that you will be impressed with the warm,

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caring, learning atmosphere in Mattoon schools.

Please know that we are ready to partner with FutureGen, your employees, and your, and their children.

We thank you for this opportunity and appreciate all you coming out tonight.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: According to my list all registered commenters have now had a chance to speak. If you registered and I failed to call your name, please let

me know now.
Okay. We can now hear from unregistered commenters. Are there any other people who would like to provide comments?
Come on up. Please state your name for the record.
JOHN TAYLOR: My name is John Taylor. I'm a lifelong resident of Mattoon. As a matter of fact, I just live 7 blocks straight down Western Avenue. I've been there for 35 years.
I represent the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 146 out of Decatur. I would like to assure the FutureGen Alliance gentlemen and the Department of Energy that, if you so elect to use the Mattoon site, which we hope that you do, we have a highly qualified, skilled labor source for electrical workers.

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Our local union has built a 2-unit power plant in Coffeen, Illinois, for Ameren CIPS approximately 40 years ago.
We also built a 2-unit fossil plant at Kincaid, Illinois, for Commonwealth Edison. That was done in the 60's and 70's. And then, low and behold, the new technology caught up with us too. We built a single-unit nuclear plant at Clinton, Illinois. And we have 650 electricians just champing at the bit to come in and do this work for you.
And I kept waiting for someone from the building and trades to stand up here and speak representing organized labor. And, if there's anyone in the crowd, they've waited me out. So, I guess I ended up with the duty.
But we would welcome you. We're looking forward to working with you. And anything we can do, at all, to assist, we will do that. Give you a good job, efficient job and a quick job.
And thank you for your comments.
(Applause.)
MARK MC KOY: Who would like to comment next?
Now, we did take seriously getting comments from people regarding the project. We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to tell us about their concerns, if they have concerns about the projects. In

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some cases, people want to see changes in the proposed action. In other cases, maybe people do not want the project at all. We need to hear all the comments that people would have.
Earlier this evening, I was talking with one gentleman. He wanted to know how would the mercury be handled that's captured at the facility.
It's a very good question, how it would be handled when we get further into the process where we have information on the manufacture of the activated charcoal filters that would be used. And we could probably get answers for how that would be handled.
He was also asking about lead, about arsonic. These are other metals that could be captured. So we'll have to investigate this further. I thought it was a very good question to bring up. But, you know, I'm sure I didn't

hear all the comments, all of the concerns that people had. I wish I had a chance to go around to each one of you and talk with you individually. But the other way to do it is for you to come up now and provide oral comments.

(No response.)

Okay. Nobody wants to give us their concerns. Do we have anybody else that wants to give us their support?

(No response.)

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MARK MC KOY: You know, this afternoon I gave some -- Come on up.

State your name for the record.

KENT METZGER: My name is Ken Metzger, again. And I didn't want to make any comments. But one thing that's come up, you know, to get this is, I think, if some of you could speak with Angela if they have any ideas. But part of this process is to come up with a way to get rid of some of these by-products. Because they're actually useful in other chemical processes and whatnot.

So, if any, this is a big group and a lot of minds out there, a lot of good minds out there, if you can think of something, a use for the CO-2 or the hydrogen or what not, I think that would be very helpful for them to put together a package to make a bigger presentation as to another thing we can provide for the team.

So, thank you.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: Do we have anyone else who would like to provide comments? Make sure you waive your hand wildly so that I see it.

You know earlier this afternoon I was doing an acknowledgment or recognition for the team, Potomac-Hudson, Tetra Tech, Louis Berger that prepared the EIS; but the EIS

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is based on information that was submitted by the site proponents. That is, for each one of the sites, the local teams prepared environmental information that, provided us not just the base level information that we needed. The teams here in Illinois, the Mattoon team, the Tuscola team, did an outstanding job in providing that information to us.

And we had requested that a draft document be provided to us early in the process so that we had something to work with early.

The two Illinois teams submitted to us documents that were well advanced. And we were able to move forward very significantly with the documents that they provided us at that time. Had they not provided those documents timely with as much information as they provided, we could not have gotten the documents together in a final draft EIS for your review as quickly as we did.

These teams have shown leadership. They have shown a tremendous work ethic. I have seen work ethic in the people in this community, and you certainly are to be commended for it.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: Do we have anyone else who would look to provide some comment?

(No response.)

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Don't want to really end this public hearing too soon. I'm afraid people are going to inundate me with questions afterwards. And I'm happy to talk with you one on one, you know, if you want to talk with me after the hearing is over.

Again, it's very difficult for me to capture all of it and write notes down from you. Either write down comments on the comment card and hand those in or come up and provide an oral statement. That allows us to capture the comments.

Yes, sir. I saw you raising your hand. Please state your name for the record.

JIM BELL: My name is Jim Bell. I am a neighbor to the proposed FutureGen site. And my views are contrary to most all that have been stated here this evening. You know, I'm one of these guys, it's not in my backyard, you know. Mr. Metzger, back here, is a neighbor of mine. And, you know, he makes a lot of points that possibly could kind of gloss over some of the problems with a facility like this, if that be done. And I have no assurance that those things will be done at this point.

Nearly everyone that commented up here had something to gain this evening. I have a lot of neighbors that, you know, they don't really want to speak out against the

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community. And I don't really want to either, but we do have concerns out there as neighbors, for health and esthetics and just our daily living, you know. And I guess that's about all I have to say. So, thank you.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: Do we have anybody else who wants to come up and provide comment?

Anyone who spoke earlier who wants to come up a second time?

(No response.)

Okay. I won't belabor this further. Thank you for your comments and participation. Remember that you may submit comments until July 16, 2007.

This concludes the Public Hearing for the FutureGen Project. Let the record show that this hearing adjourned at 8:28 p.m. Thank you.

Which were all the proceedings had and entered of record at the Department of Energy's public scoping meeting for the FutureGen Project.

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Susan Bursa, a Notary Public and Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that on the said date the foregoing proceedings were taken down in shorthand by

me and that the foregoing transcript contains a true and accurate transcription of all such shorthand notes.

I further certify that I am a disinterested party to the proceedings herein and that I am not a relative of any of the parties hereto, that I am not in the employ of any of the parties hereto, and am not otherwise interested in the outcome of this hearing.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 14th day of July, A.D. 2007.

Notary Public and
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License No. 084-3615.

Errata for the Transcript of
the U.S. Department of Energy
FutureGen Public Hearing

June 28, 2007
Tuscola Community Building
Tuscola, Illinois

Acronyms Used
CD – Compact disc
DOE – U.S. Department of Energy
EIS – Environmental Impact Statement
IGCC – Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
NETL – National Energy Technology Laboratory
R&D – Research and development

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Line 7 – Delete "A.D."
Page 2
Line 1 – Change "MC KOY" to "McKOY"
Page 6
Line 7 – Change "R and D" to "R&D"
Page 12
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Line 24 – Change "MC KOY" to "McKOY"
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Line 11 – Change "1950's" to "1950s"
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

PROCEEDINGS

The proceedings taken on the 28th day of June, 2007 A.D., IN RE: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FUTUREGEN PROJECT, taken at 7:00 p.m., at Tuscola Community Building, 122 West Central Avenue, Tuscola, Douglas County, Illinois, before Susan Bursa, C.S.R., a Notary Public of Douglas County.

PRESENT:

Mark McKoy
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NEPA DOCUMENT MANAGER

Susan Bursa, C.S.R.
709 Lincoln Place
Arthur, Illinois 61911

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MARK MC KOY: Welcome to the Department of Energy's Public Hearing for the FutureGen Project. Let the record show that the hearing began on June 28, 2007, at 7:06 p.m., at the Tuscola Community Building in Tuscola, Illinois.

As part of this compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the DOE has produced a Draft Environmental Impact Statement or EIS. This document analyzes the potential environmental impact at the alternative sites for the proposed FutureGen Project. Both the document and the comments received should help the DOE in making better informed decisions.

The draft EIS has been distributed to persons who have previously expressed some type of interest in the project. If you previously requested a copy of the document and have not received it, please provide your name and mailing address to Robin Griffin. Robin, where are you? Right there. And indicate the form in which you would like to receive the document.

Also there are comment cards available that can be used to request a copy of the draft EIS as well as the final EIS. And these cards are located at the DOE exhibits.

The document is available in three forms. It's

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available in electronic form on a CD. You can get a hard copy of the summary plus a CD of the entire document, or you can get the entire document in hard copy form. We have, with us this evening, a limited number of hard copy summaries and CDs.

After the Draft EIS is distributed to the public, a public hearing is held to help gather comments on the document and on the proposed federal action. During the informal session earlier this evening between 4 and 7 p.m., DOE and its support contractors as well as representatives of the FutureGen Alliance and the local site proponents, the FutureGen Illinois Tuscola team, were available to listen to your concerns and to attempt to answer your questions. We hope this session was as informative for you as it was for us.

During the formal session tonight, we will briefly present the role of DOE; and we will go over the relevant parts of NEPA compliance and the remaining schedule. And the FutureGen Alliance will briefly present an overview of the FutureGen Project. Then we will begin the formal comment session.

As with the scoping meetings held in August, we will give priority to elected officials and their designated

representatives to go first. However, DOE realized, during

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the scoping meetings, the general public had to wait a long time before having an opportunity to speak.

This time, with the assistance and cooperation of elected officials, we hope to give the general public an opportunity to speak sooner this evening. We hope that all of you can stay for the entire oral comment session. For those who cannot stay and for those who do not feel comfortable speaking in front of large audiences, we do have a separate comment station located out through the lobby and in the room to the side.

While we prefer that you provide oral comments here during the formal, oral comment session later this evening, the comment station located in the room to the side is an alternative. This option is available until the formal comment period begins.

Written comments are given equal weight with oral comments, and written comments tend to be crafted more carefully and can be written at your convenience. You may provide written comments instead of or in addition to oral comments. Again there are comment cards available at the DOE exhibit. You can fill out the cards and submit them tonight you or anytime before the close of the comment period on July 16.

You can also provide comments by e-mail, by regular

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mail, faxes, voice mail, and telephone calls as indicated on the literature available at the DOE exhibits.

On tonight's agenda, we will have a presentation on DOE's role in the project. That presentation will be provided by Tom Sarkus with the DOE office in Pittsburgh. Tom is up here at the table.

There will be a project overview by Mike Mudd the CEO at the FutureGen Alliance. I will briefly go over NEPA compliance issues and the NEPA schedule. And, finally, we will hear comments from you, the general public.

Visiting with us tonight, we have Bart Ellefritz representing US Senator Richard J. Durbin. If you're here, please stand.

Kathy Harrington, representing Senator Barack Obama.

Matthew Jones representing US Representative Tim Johnson.

Rodney Davis representing Congressman John Shimkus.

We have Warren Ribley, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity here on behalf of the governor.

State Representative Chapin Rose. Chapin may not be here with us right now.

Chuck Knox, Chair of the County Board. Thank you.

Don Munson, Vice Chair of the County Board.

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Daniel Kleiss, Mayor of the City of Tuscola.

And Bob McCleary, Village President of Savoy.

Representing the Department of Energy, we have Tom Sarkus, again, with the DOE office in Pittsburgh, National Energy Technology Laboratory. Tom is the DOE

Project Director for FutureGen. He's with the Office of Coal and Power R and D.

We also have Otis Mills with the DOE office in Pittsburgh. Otis is our media relations expert.

Jeff Hoffman with the DOE office in Pittsburgh. Jeff is a systems engineer working with us on the project.

Recently joining the project, is Bill Guilliam with the DOE in Morgantown. Bill is a geologist.

And I'm Mark McKoy, the DOE Environmental Manager and DOE NEPA Document Manager for FutureGen.

I also want to acknowledge the team that worked very hard to put together the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This team is composed of people with Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Tetra Tech and the Louis Berger Group. With us this evening, we have Fred Carey, President of Potomac-Hudson Engineering, and the person who has endured the most in putting together the document and holding the schedule as well we have, Debra Walker, the NEPA Project Manager.

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I also would like to recognize all of the people here with Potomac-Hudson Engineering, Tetra Tech, Louis Berger, who have worked so hard on the document.

Would those people please stand. Some of them are already standing around the walls.

And now it's time for a few presentations to provide you with some background information regarding the project. Here is Tom Sarkus with the DOE overview, with the overview of DOE's role in the project.

TOM SARKUS: Good evening. This is a nighttime photo of Tampa Electric's IGCC, that's Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Power Plant. It is one of just two coal-based IGCC plants in the United States and one of six in the world.

It's the top dispatch or basically the number one unit in Tampa Electric's generating system. And it's been operating commercially for over 10 years. With operational plants having designs that are, in most cases, over 10 and, in fact, approaching 15 years old, it's time to build upon the lessons we learned in Tampa, at Wabash River, and at other plants and to bring on the next generation of clean coal technologies. FutureGen.

I had the distinct privilege of supervising DOE's funding on the Wabash River and Tampa IGCC project. That's

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probably one of the reasons I was assigned to work on FutureGen 2 years ago. When Wabash River and Tampa were designed in the early 1990's, key external drivers were sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions relevant to acid rain controls. If you think back 10 and 15 years ago, acid rain was a major environmental driver. But we also have to focus on the technical challenge of combining and effectively integrating a gasifier with a combined cycle power plant.

Today we have additional drivers, things such as mercury emissions and CO2. And CO2 is relevant to climate change. These drivers are going to require us to integrate

additional processes and improvements into the coal based IGCC plants of tomorrow.

As plant complexity tends to increase, so, too, will the role of advancing process controls. We expect FutureGen to become a prototype for the coal based power plants of the future, not only in the United States but throughout the world.

You've probably heard about FutureGen in the context of a technology-based mitigation strategy for climate change. That is, FutureGen will produce and separate hydrogen and carbon dioxide. We will gasify coal into hydrogen and carbon dioxide. We will use the hydrogen to

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produce electric power. And we will store the CO2 in deep geologic, saline aquifers.

Now, I'm often asked, when I explain this geologic storage concept, if there's enough storage capacity and how it works. This slide basically shows that all of the major CO2 emitters in north America emit a combined total of 3.8 gigatons of carbon dioxide every year.

If we go and add up to the storage capacity of the geologic reservoirs, and recognize that these are not caves or caverns, these are, we're injecting CO2 into very tiny pore spaces in-between the sand grains of a rock. But the rock may extend for many miles, and it can be hundreds of feet thick. So when you calculate the combined total of all of this tiny pore spaces, you come up with very large storage capacity.

The bottom line here is that the storage capacity in North America is 3,800 gigatons. And we produce 3.8 every year. So that translates into a thousand years of storage capacity. And this is a conservative estimate. We've even seen estimates that are easily double this. That's a lot of storage capacity when you consider that we only have 250 years supply of coal. And I laughingly say 250 years supply of coal, because that's a lot of energy. Coal is our most abundant fossil energy resource, and it's one

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that's grown right here in America.

FutureGen has currently estimated the cost almost 1.8 billion dollars. That includes approximately 1-and-a-half billion dollars to design and build the power plant and the geologic storage facilities. Plus about $300 million to operate those facilities for 3 years. And the operations costs are largely the cost of fuel or coal to operate the plant for those 3 years.

It's estimated that FutureGen will generate about $300 million in electricity revenues during those 3 years which will essentially offset the cost of operation. So you have a 1-and-a-half billion dollar plant that will be built.

FutureGen is being implemented through a cooperative agreement between DOE and the FutureGen Industrial Alliance. Like Tampa and Wabash River, which I think stand as models of government-industry collaboration and partnership. We hope to repeat that again with FutureGen. And I believe that we have the group, both in the

government and within industry, that will do that for you.
The Alliance consists of twelve coal mining and coal-based power companies. Their logos are shown here, and you'll have a presentation from Mike Mudd and Jerry Oliver of the Alliance in a moment.

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The cooperative agreement is structured around six budget periods. To me, as a project manager, I manage the government project against budget and against schedule. And we use a contractor cooperative agreement to implement that.
These six budget periods are shown on the schedule here. And we recently transitioned from the first budget period, which we're calling Budget Period 0. That included project structuring and conceptual design. And we've moved into Budget Period 1, which is preliminary design. After preliminary design, will come final design.
Over the past year, much of the work and attention, as you know, has focused on site selection and on conceptual design of both the power plant and the storage facilities.
Over the next year, you're going to see a transition, that some of that focus will shift toward selecting technology and equipment suppliers for the major parts of the FutureGen plant.
Design activities will continue to the spring of 2009. And construction will then begin in the spring of 2009 and will run through 2011. At that point, we will have what is called shakedown and start-up. And we expect to begin commercial operations of the FutureGen plant by

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the end of 2012.
DOE and the FutureGen Alliance are sharing the project costs with DOE paying 74 percent and the Industrial Alliance sharing 26 percent.
I'm sorry. The machine is having operator difficulty with me here.
As for international participation, a number of foreign companies have joined the Alliance as equal members. And several foreign governments have announced an intention to join on the government side of the project ledger. We hope to secure at less $80 million from foreign governments at a charge of $10 million each.
So far, four countries have announced their intention to join. India, South Korea, China and Japan. And we're looking for more at least four more. And the department is working to develop an agreement that will facilitate that international collaboration.
That ends my presentation. Here is my contact information if you have questions or feel a need to contact me. Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to hearing your comments later in the meeting.
(Applause.)
MARK MC KOY: Thank you, Tom. Next we'll hear from Mike Mudd, the CEO of the FutureGen Alliance providing

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update and overview of the FutureGen Project. I think he

will also have part of the presentation delivered by Jerry Oliver, the Senior Vice President for the FutureGen Alliance.

Mike.

MIKE MUDD: Good evening. Wow! What a thrill to see so many people who care in this room spending a summer night with us. Thank you very much for coming.

Early last year was the start of a very long journey for many of your leaders. In February, the Alliance sent out a request for offers to sites throughout the whole nation saying who wants to build the FutureGen plant in their town.

Twelve communities in seven states rose up and say, we want FutureGen in our town, in our communities.

We went through a very rigorous process, not based on politics but based on the quality of the proposal and the quality of the site. And as you all know, we, we came up with a short list of four sites which we announced in July.

I remember seeing on some of the videos the celebrations in some of your towns when we made the announcement. And then we called in your leaders and said, now the work really starts. And we told your leaders that

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between July and, basically, November, that they were required to develop an inordinate amount of information to support this environmental impact statement. And you see the result of that environmental impact statement on one of the tables here. Thousands of pages that analyze all features of the plant.

I really want to commend the hard work that they did. And I want to remind you that we are here, not because of what the Alliance has done, but because of what you and your leaders have done. Because you picked the site by the quality of your proposals.

So now we go to the next step. By the end of November, we will reduce that short list to a single site. And this is a very important part and process. Once again, that single site is going to be based on the quality of the information and the proposals we receive from you and from your states between now and the end of July. Jerry Oliver will go through a little bit more about this.

But I want to express the appreciation of the Alliance to the dedicated people associated with the proposal and the hard work.

Jack Lavin and his team, Bill Hoback and his team, and your local leaders. We know how hard you've worked, and we appreciate it.

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But a major project like this cannot help without the support in Washington. $1.5 billion projects with over a billion dollars of support from the US government and $400 million of support from the Alliance.

The delegates that you have in Washington, you should all be proud of. I've had the honor of working with many of them. Your senators have, basically, Senators Durbin and Obama, have been supporters. But I've had the

privilege and honor of having the pleasure of dealing with Congressman Johnson, Congressman Costello and Congressman Shimkus. And I want to say they're awesome people. They represent you well. And I see their dedication and passion for coal and the dedication and passion to do the right thing. And their support has meant a lot in Washington.

So, at the end of the day, we will be making a decision of the final site. People ask, one person or the other, I can't say what the answer is going to be. But I think that, regardless of the outcome, the hard work that you have done and your leaders have done is impressive. And I really want to thank all of you.

With that, I'd like to past it on to Jerry Oliver to give you some details about the program. Thank you.

(Applause.)

JERRY OLIVER: Thank you, Mike.

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It's really a pleasure to be here. Ten months ago, we, we were here at the public hearings. And, and started the exercise that Mike talked about. And it's amazing how fast that time has gone by; I mean, we kind of blinked and here we are again.

We couldn't have done all the things that Mike talked about and all the things I'm going to talk about in a few minutes without an incredible team. And here the team included Tuscola. It included Douglas County, included your state FutureGen team, included the DOE. It included the Alliance, the Alliance members and our Alliance partners. And we worked together in a way that I think is pretty unique. And I was really pleased with what's happened. It's been great. And, and I think that that's the kind of cooperation you need to do something as unique and interesting as this project.

So let me start, give you a little background. I've got to remind you where we're at. This is going to be the cleanest coal-fueled power plant in the world. We're going to take out 90 percent of the CO2. And we're going to put at least a million tons of that CO2 underground, sequester it. We're going to store it and store it forever. And, and I'll get into some details of that; and it will kind of support what Tom talked about. We're going to create a

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living laboratory, a research platform, a way to actually take and commercialize technology that will make the idea of this thing both commercially viable and also environmentally benign.

We're going to do it with a very interest in global. And we are working with a global private and public partnership, and we're going to use a wide array of it, strong stake holders.

The objectives that we have, pretty clear and pretty simple. We're going to design a plant and build it, and where actual design is under way, that is a near zero emission coal fuel power plant. It's, and we're going to capture and sequester at least a million tons a year of CO2. We're going to generate very low emissions of SOx and NOx, particulate matter, and, and mercury.

We're going to push technology in every aspect of the plant. And we're going to do it in a way that we bring the plant on-line, as Tom said, by 2012, and, and be operational at that point.

And, really, the class that is critical on this list is we're going to try to build very broad stakeholder acceptance. And what we're doing, though, is right. It can be used around the globe and actually take CO2 out of the air and put in the ground.

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Why do you need it. This project allows for a very unique opportunity at a very large scale to understand the commercial and the technical implications of taking CO2 and putting it underground and leaving it there. It also allows us to work on the regulatory and the legal framework that will allow that to happen, not just here but everywhere around the United States and, hopefully, around the globe.

It gives us, because it is a research platform, we can actually push technology more than you would normally get it; because we don't have the same commercial drivers you would the plants. So we are going to take ideas that have gone to a certain level and actually move them forward. And we won't be successful to meet our goals if you don't do that. There isn't anybody in the globe that's as far along as this project. So the key, to me, is that we've got to keep moving it forward. And we've got to move it quickly.

And, lastly, critical to this thing is the international participation. Because, even if we do it in one spot and it isn't taken and used both across the US and around the globe, we've kind have failed. So the process, to me, is to make sure that you've got the international community involved.

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So, who is in the Alliance? There are twelve companies, as Tom said; but, of those twelve companies, six are US based, six are globally based. But we cover China, Australia, Europe, South Africa, South America, as well as the US. We have the involvement. Again, we have the US government in the form of the Department of Energy. And, as Tom said, they are bringing in other countries onto their side of the thing. So, the idea is to really to get as much of the global involvement as you can.

And we have partners. We have, first of all, a lot of Battelle people that are here tonight as part of the Alliance team. And they're one of the leading R and D organizations in the United States. And contribute heavily in subsurface and the management of the project. We brought experts in that will continue from, for every use of this to really understand what are the implications and what we're trying to do and how do you make it better.

And, lastly, we just brought on board Washington Group as both our engineer and our design contractor.

But we're going to build the plant so that we can operate on eastern coal, western coal, Illinois coal and be able to test more difficult coals and, as we go forward.

We are going to, as I said earlier, push technology. We're going to push gasification. We're going to push the gas turbine as far as you can. We're going to find ways to remove more CO2 than has been done before and use hydrogen in the production of electricities. So that, there's a lot of aspects to the, to the pieces of the plant where we will actually advance technology.

We're also going to integrate the removal of CO2 with the power plant, which has never been done. And there's a lot of testing that's going on on putting CO2 underground. There's a lot of the OR work to take and put them together in a single facility that operates all the time is, is actually a very unique aspect of the project.

And, lastly, we're going to create the ability to take sub-screens out of this plant to allow us to test things like fuel cells and other new technologies we're trying to move in the market place.

We're going, we are going to push the sequestration technology. First of all, it's not being done; so that isn't that hard to push. But we are building models right now that have never been built to really understand the implications of putting these molecules underground. We're going to monitor it above, in the formation. We're going to monitor it with, with systems that don't exist today. And, and allow the universities here locally to help test some of the ideas that we need to make that part better. But we are going to really understand what happens to CO2 underground.

And, as Tom said, there is a thousand years of storage, if you do this right, for CO2, underground in the type of formations that the Mount Simons represents here in Illinois.

There is also another 7,000 gigatons of storage around the globe. So if you do it here, there is, there is an amazing amount of storage potential around the globe. So the idea of taking power plants and putting the CO2 underground is something that, once we prove this, will actually allow us to move large volumes of CO2 out of the air.

So where have we been. We've, we've gone from a conceptual design. We're in the process of moving toward a preliminary design. We've looked at a lot of ways to build this plant, a lot of alternatives. We've also made sure that all the alternatives allowed us to be fuel flexible, which is a bit of a challenge in itself.

And we've taken, at the end of last year, and come up with three designs that fit. We did the material and, heat material balances on those to do cost estimate on those. And they became part of the end of the last phase.

Now, what we're doing is taking the work we've done, moved it to a single plant, a single technology base; and we're going out to market, as we speak, asking the, the equipment and, and technology supply community to help us design and build the facility.

The plant is going to cost about $1.5 billion, as Tom said. The 300 million that was in his numbers were for the purchase of coal. So it's about a $1.5 billion project. Probably, from a schedule standpoint, the critical things to me is we're going to break ground in 2009. And we're going to have the plant on-line at the end of 2012. So it's not too far out. From now, it's a very aggressive schedule; but I think very doable.

What are we doing right now? We're working on preliminary design. We are, we are trying to figure out, from a technology standpoint, what technologies have a chance to fit and would make the most sense. We are, we have developed specifications for the various pieces of the plant what we'd like to see if we could get it. We've been working on the do-diligence of the sites. They put in offers last year; and we've not only been working on EFB's; but we've been bothering them for months on, on every aspect of their proposal, there original proposal.

And right now we are coming out with the guidelines for best and final offers. And that will be the next stage

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of this, and I'll talk to you about that in a second.

And we've been supporting the DOE in the development of EIS and in moving of that process forward.

So what's next. About the fifteenth of June, Friday, about a week-and-a-half ago, we came out with guidelines for the four sites for the best and final offer. We've asked them to return their offer to us by August the 1st. Assuming that the DOE finishes the EIS process or the RODS on the four sites by the end of October, we'll make a decision in November on a plant site.

And the day after we make a decision, I and a team will be here to start the job. So we aren't going to delay once we make a site selection. So, bottom line, this project is going to be fast. We're on track where we're supposed to go. We've come a long ways, but we've got an awful lot further to go. We've got a great site. We've had a tremendous team to this point, and we couldn't have been in this hearing tonight without all the work that's been done by the folks that have been involved.

So, it's a real pleasure to present where we are and to have an opportunity to talk about the FutureGen Project. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: Thank you, Jerry and Mike.

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Last August, when we were here, I provided an overview of NEPA and some of the most salient points. And I realize some of you here tonight maybe were not here then; so I'll go over a few of the key points as well as some of the things that are most important at this point in the NEPA process.

NEPA stands for the National Environmental Policy Act. It is a federal statute. It became effective January 1, 1970. It applies to all federal agencies. It does not apply to state government agencies or to local government agencies; nor does it apply to private

individuals and private organizations, only to state agencies.

It is often referred to as the National Charter for Protection of the Environment, because it was the first statute that broadly brought environmental considerations into the decision-making process.

The NEPA mandate, as written up there, is that environmental information must be available to public officials and to citizens before federal decisions are made and before federal actions are taken. It must be based on high-quality information. The scientific analyses used must be reasonably accurate.

There is a requirement that we provide copies of the

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EIS to federal agencies having expertise in the relevant fields and provide them with an opportunity to review and comment on the document. We also provide copies of the document to state agencies and to local agencies so that they can also comment on the document.

Most importantly, it requires public involvement in the process. And that's why we're here this evening with the public hearing.

The purpose of the public hearing is to invite comments from interested and affected persons and organizations on the draft EIS. Appropriate comments address the adequacy of the EIS, the merits of the alternatives or the proposed federal action especially regarding environmental impact.

We are at the middle of the process. That is, we have prepared a Draft EIS and we have distributed that to members of the public that have requested it. We will take the comments that we receive and prepare a Final EIS. That Final EIS will also be distributed to the public. No sooner than 30 days thereafter, the DOE may issue a record of decision.

DOE does have some affirmative responsibilities in addressing your comments and concerns. DOE must consider public comments collectively and individually. DOE must

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respond to public comments in the Final EIS in one of the following ways:

DOE can modify the alternatives.

DOE can evaluate alternatives not previously given serious consideration.

DOE can supplement, improve, or modify analyses or make factual corrections. Otherwise, DOE must explain why it did not, why the comments did not warrant further agency response.

The substantive comments will be attached to the Final EIS and distributed to the public.

As I said before, we are in the middle of the process. As listed up there, you can see that we are now in the midst of the public hearings which are occurring in June of this year. We would like to have the Final EIS distributed to the public sometime in September. That would allow us to get to a record of decision sometime in October.

DOE does want your participation in the process. We take very seriously our obligations to get your concerns and address your concerns to the extent that we can.

Please send your written comments to me, the NEPA Document Manager at Mail Stop N-03, P.O. Box 880, Morgantown, West Virginia 26507-0880. You can send e-mails

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to FutureGen.EIS@NETL.DOE.GOV. Again, keep in mind the comment period does close July 16.

This is the time to begin the formal comment period when the public is invited to provide oral comments regarding the adequacy of the EIS, the merits of the alternatives or the proposed federal action specially relative to potential environmental impacts.

For those of you providing oral comments, we ask that you keep your comments to within a 5-minute time frame. This allows us to make sure everyone has equal opportunity to provide comments. You may speak a second time after everyone has a first chance to speak.

It is important to make your views known now, either in oral statements or in writing. Again, we have comment cards. These are the comment cards that available at the DOE exhibits. There are check boxes on these cards where you can check to indicate that you would like to receive a copy of the Final EIS; and you can check to indicate whether you would like a hard copy or a summary and a CD. If you would like to receive a copy of the Draft EIS which we have just distributed, please write that into one of the lines above. And, of course, make sure you have the appropriate mailing address provided on the postcard.

You can hand these in to me this evening. You can

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put a postage stamp on these and mail them to me. Please have them postmarked before July 16.

Again, all comments will be considered equally as we continue to develop the Final EIS. And, again, I'll go over a few of the rules for making comments as shown on the slide here.

Again, 5 minutes per speaker, please. Two opportunities to speak, if time permits; and, again, government officials and preregistered speakers will go first. And then I'll provide an opportunity for everyone else to come up.

A transcript is being made. We have a court reporter. So if you come up to provide oral comments, please state your name. You may need to spell your name and speak clearly. A copy of the transcripts of this meeting will be available at the Tuscola Public Library within a few weeks and will be part of the Final EIS.

The first commenter is Matthew Jones, representing US Representative Tim Johnson.

MATTHEW JONES: I'm not sure which direction I'm supposed to face here.

My name is Matthew Jones. Real brief. I am representing Congressman Tim Johnson who most of you all know. Congressman could not be here, obviously; they were

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out in Washington, D.C. voting. But he is en route to come back home. Never the less, he wanted to me express to all of you that, obviously, we all know how important this project is. But more importantly, that, not only as Congressman Johnson but a lot of you local, state and federal officials have all been working together.

And that's one of the rare benefits of an opportunity like this is to actually see people working together. And I know, in this time of age, regardless if you're republican or democrat, it's nice, it's refreshing to see a project for the common good and everybody working together.

And, obviously, with all of that said, we want to bring it to Illinois. And I realize we're in the Tuscola site, but we represent both cities. Now, I'm not going to lie. I'm from Arthur, Illinois; and I'm from Douglas County. I have been for six generations. Well, not me personally, but my family. So I want to see it right here for the obvious reasons, the jobs, the environmental impact and, obviously, the energy.

But from Representative Congressman Johnson, we just want to bring it to Illinois; because it's, obviously, going to impact everyone directly or indirectly. And it's for the common good for everybody. So, I didn't have a big

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long speech prepared. I know I'm under the 5 minutes. So I hope that will be pleasing to everybody. But thank you very much for inviting us, and I will definitely relay that there was a large support here in the Tuscola site.

So thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: The next commenter is Warren Ribley, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

WARREN RIBLEY: Good evening. Mark, thank you. It's great to see this turnout as Mike Mudd indicated. Thank you, residents of Tuscola, Douglas County and surrounding counties. Great to see your interest in this project.

My name is Warren Ribley. Not to be confused with Ripley of Ripley's Believe It or Not.

I am Director of Operations for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. On behalf of Governor Rod Blagojevich and DCO Director Jack Lavin, it is my pleasure to welcome back the US Department of Energy, FutureGen Alliance and their teams to Illinois for another round of public hearings that represents the next critical step in this important selection process.

We've been actively engaged for more than 4 years.

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As you can see, there's a high level of energy and excitement surrounding FutureGen and, clearly, its impact it would have not only on our state but our nation and, really, across the world.

I want to thank Mayor Dan Kleiss and Brian Moody as well as all the attendees here tonight for your continued participation and enthusiasm about this project that's

continued throughout the process.

Again, I'd also like to recognize Bill Hoback, Director of the Office of Coal Development, DCO, and his team, who really have been our resident experts and advocates for FutureGen.

FutureGen is, indeed, the future of energy; and we're here to tell you that Illinois is ready for FutureGen.

We reach this point with quiet confidence and high anticipation; and we've benefited from the input of people throughout Illinois including planners, elected officials, business leaders, farmers, and some of the top scientific and engineering talent anywhere in the world.

There may be no economic development project in the history of this state -- that's the truth -- that approaches the scope of FutureGen and its potential impact, not only on us here but, again, around the nation and the world. So think about that. It's pretty awesome.

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A new Southern Illinois University study that the governor just recently released found that FutureGen would have actually a much larger economic impact than the 1,300 construction jobs and the 150 permanent jobs that the Department of Energy has estimated would he created. The study found that, during the 4-year construction period, there would be more than $1 billion in economic impact statewide to Illinois. And there would be more than 1,200 spin-off jobs that would be created.

Once FutureGen is operational, the study shows it will generate a hundred thirty-five million dollars annually and total statewide economic output with $85 million estimated annual increase right here in Douglas and Coles County. And, additionally, it will create 300 full-time jobs elsewhere statewide and spin-off.

And the local communities here in East Central Illinois and the hard-working people that live in Douglas and Coles County, you've really met every challenge to date to bring FutureGen here and should be applauded for that.

This region wants to show the world how to use coal cleanly, how to capture and store CO2. We've worked creatively and cooperatively on solutions to complex problems and nurtured each other as valued partners in this endeavor which will pay dividends to us and across the

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United States and the world for decades to come.

We have said all along that FutureGen, that Illinois is the place for FutureGen based on the merits of these two site, alone. And we feel more confident about that with each passing day.

Some of the best minds in the state have helped us in reaching this stage. We've had top to bottom cooperation, as mentioned earlier, from not only all levels of government but also including the private sector.

We wouldn't be here today if we didn't absolutely have the best local partners in Brian Moody, Angela Griffin, from Coles County, and their respective FutureGen teams. They're all to be applauded.

However, as we head down the homestretch, I'd like to

reiterate all the distinct advantages that Illinois offers FutureGen, starting with our geology.

Illinois is blessed with the geology to demonstrate this breakthrough technology as well and probably better than anywhere else in the United States and, in our estimation, including that of our competitors in Texas. We have deep Vict porous sandstone. I hope you have had a chance to see in some of the demonstrations that the safety margins of at least two cap rock seals that have never, ever been penetrated.

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Illinois, in addition, offers a platform from a geology standpoint that will maximize the transferability of the FutureGen technology to sites throughout the United States and the world. We've been examining and documenting this potential, with the help of the top scientists in the region, for more than 3 years. And we're very confident in those results.

Water is our next advantage. Both sites offer more than ample water for FutureGen needs. Pretty well demonstrated that here this week. And thank you for our rain. And to do so at a reasonable cost without negatively impacting current or future water supplies in our region.

Location. Among other advantages, our sites are almost ideally situated in relation to the nation's major coal fields, saving the Alliance millions of dollars in rail costs as well as further minimizing the carbon profile of the project of shipping the coal in.

Leadership. I will bring that up again. This project has garnered bipartisan support from elected officials in Illinois, in Congress as well as in Springfield; and we, as a state, particularly under Governor Blagojevich, have never lost faith in the long-term potential of Illinois coal.

Research capacity. We do have leading coal research

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institutions supporting Illinois' bid for FutureGen, including Southern Illinois University and our partner state, Indiana, Purdue University, which are two of the top coal research centers in the nation.

We have the University of Illinois just a few miles to the north. It's a premier research university with a number of, four engineering, with the number four engineering program of any college in the country right here in our backyard. And, of course, a top state university, Eastern Illinois University, just down the road.

Investment. You've committed the investment. Illinois' investment package includes an unmatched $17 million grant to the FutureGen Alliance. In addition, we have committed the Illinois State Geological Survey and some of the nation's top scientists in their fields to oversee the long-term monitoring of the CO2 once it is captured and stored.

We also have history on our side. As we've emphasized the last round of the FutureGen hearings, Illinois is a coal state, not an oil and gas state. We're

a coal state. We've demonstrated our belief in coal and investments of millions of dollars in the development of technology of clean coal.

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We have, within the past several weeks, permitted, through the Illinois EPA, the first two coal gasification projects to be advanced anywhere in America in the last 20 years. And we're very close to permitting and breaking ground on a gasification project in the far northwestern part of the state, in East Dubuque, that will make nitrogen fertilizer from coal, quite significantly, beginning producing for US consumption the first and, producing the low sulfur diesel fuel made from Illinois coal.

Fundamentals for FutureGen are in place with the water. We have the geology. We have the location. We have the economics. We have the research. We have the political leadership, and we have the community support.

With science on our side and all of these strategic assets, we are confident that the world's cleanest coal plant will be built in this state. We're all here today because we share in this vision and we believe in the possibilities of this facility to change the way we look at energy production.

As we stated, FutureGen needs Illinois. Illinois needs FutureGen.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: We have with us now State

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Representative Chapin Rose. I believe he will be the next commenter.

CHAPIN ROSE: Thank you. And I apologize for being late. We were in this overtime session. We have to be back at 9 a.m. tomorrow. But I hope that the fact that I'm here to tell you how important I view this project.

And with that, I want to begin; and I don't want to bore the folks who were in Mattoon the other night, but welcome. Welcome to Illinois. Welcome to Tuscola this time. I absolutely hope that you have enjoyed your visit. I know that this is a wonderful community, a wonderful place to live. And I just heard Mr. Ribley tell you a little bit about why we think Illinois should be the new home of FutureGen.

I want to highlight, just for a second, a few things. The geology is here. The geology is here. We have the cap rock seals. They have not been perforated, unlike our competitor's state.

The technology is here. The University of Illinois is 20 minutes to the north. Eastern Illinois is 20 minutes to the south. And SIU and their coal development laboratory is not too far beyond that.

Finally, and I think most importantly, the coal is here. As I understand this project, it's designed

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specifically to find an economic use for the high sulphur, so-called bad coal. That bad coal is strewn all about the State of Illinois. All about Kentucky. All about

Indiana. And, you know, we've been outreaching to our neighbors and our neighboring states to bring them on board in order to bring this project home.

Something else I want to just talk about. And I think Matt Jones from Tim Johnson's office touched on, is the unprecedented scope of the cooperation this has brought on. The governor's office, Governor Blagojevich's office; the DCO; Director Lavin, who was at the Mattoon meeting; Mr. Ribley; Tim Johnson; John Shimkus; our congressional delegations; our local folks. You know the Mayor of Tuscola is over here, Mayor Kleiss. The Mayor of Mattoon. I have, in my 5 years of office, never seen anything like this. Never seen anything like this.

On the floor of the House of Representatives today, I, a Republican, had a conversation with the Democratic Speaker of the House about FutureGen. This is unprecedented in its scope, the cooperation to bring this project to the State of Illinois.

I want to close my remarks, again, by welcoming you and Chairman Mudd and the members of the panel. We appreciate you being here. I hope that your stay was

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enjoyable. If there's anything we can do to make it more so, please let us know. My office is certainly at your disposal.

And, finally, I just want to reiterate. The technology is here. The geology is here. The coal is here. We want FutureGen here in Illinois. So thank you very much, and I hope you enjoy the rest of your stay

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: The next commenter is Joe Burgess, Community Unit School District Number 301.

JOE BURGESS: Good evening. Joe Burgess, Superintendent of Schools. I also have the pleasure, over the last 3 years of also being part of the Tuscola Economic Development Board that, those of us from Tuscola commonly know as TEDI.

I think we owe a lot to Brian Moody for the work of the development that this project has come along with and thanks; and thank you, Brian.

(Applause.)

Special welcome to those of you who are visitors of our community. I hope you found it friendly and enjoyable but also informational.

Our school system, when we saw that we were going to be one of the finalists, took a very proactive action

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towards that. We know that, now that we're on, not only the national map, the world map, that Tuscola's potential for growth, regardless of whether FutureGen becomes part of our community or not, is great.

The planning stages are set. Our board of education is, has set that through planning meetings, talking about the impacts of growth and what that will do to our, not only to our community but to our school buildings and to our educational system.

With that, I'd like to thank the forefathers of our

school system. All three of our buildings are easily added on to. Potential for growth and space is there. We would welcome the opportunity for those students, because those students will be getting a first-class education.

Those of you from the Department of Energy, I'm sure, are aware from your friends No Child Left Behind that you have in Washington, D.C. with the Department of Education.

Our elementary, this year, was recognized by Washington, D.C. as a Blue-Ribbon School. So we could offer your students that would be coming to Tuscola as a part of our system a First-class National Educational program.

Lastly, I would be remiss, as educational leader, not to well you that we would look forward to also the

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educational opportunities that FutureGen could potentially bring to our students. The technology. The science. Those are all things that we're very excited about. We would look forward to partnering with you, allowing our students and our staff to learn from you and, hopefully, you learn from us.

So welcome you to Tuscola. We hope you're part of our lives soon, and take care. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: The next commenter is Vernon Knapp with the Illinois State Water Survey.

VERNON KNAPP: My name is Vernon Knapp. I'm the Assistant Director for the Center of Watershed Science at the Illinois State Water Survey. The survey is a division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. I'm also the leading service monitor technologist for the Water Survey's Water Supply Planning Program.

My involvement with the FutureGen in Illinois began over a year ago when I prepared the state's water supply assessment of its proposed sites. Also over the past year, I have provided technical feedback regarding Tuscola's site plan to build upon the existing water supply capabilities and also reduce their dependence on, dependence on the Mahomet aquifer as a supplemental water supply source.

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Natural flows in the Kaskaskia River augmented by the continually growing amount of waste water discharge into the river by the Champaign/Urbana southwest treatment plant remained the predominant sources of water supply for the Lyondell Equistar water withdrawal.

The possibility of increased use of the Mahomet aquifer is a concern for many because the aquifer is a water supply source for many communities in the region.

The Lyondell Equistar Company and its predecessors have a long history of pumping water from the Mahomet aquifer dating back to the 1950's. The supply from the company's Mahomet aquifer belt can be substantial with individual well yields exceeding 1,500 to 2,000 gallons per minute.

Although these wells can provide an abundant source of supply, there is a lessoning for their use, in part, because of a continuing distance of waste water effluence

into the river.
On-going studies by the Water Survey may lead to an even further reduction of Lyondell Equistar's need for the Mahomet aquifer. As part of our agency's water supply planning activities for the Mahomet aquifer we are conducting discharge measurements on the Kaskaskia River to more accurately quantify the amount of low flow in the

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river.
Based on this chart taken this spring and summer, we estimate the river has as much as 2-and-a-half times the amount of flow during low-flow conditions as previously estimated for determining supplemental water needs.
I've also reviewed the proposed water withdraw practices for supplying the FutureGen facility as prepared by Jim Crane, Douglas County Engineer. These proposed practices would be expected to further and substantially diminish the frequency of the Mahomet aquifer's use as a supplemental source.
There are two key components that would reduce the need for Mahomet aquifer water. The first is to reuse the treated waste waters from the Lyondell Equistar facility, replacing the existing discharge into the Kaskaskia River and, thereby, removing the need to augment low flows in the river for the purpose of waste water pollution.
The second component is the construction of additional, substantial reservoir storage at the site of the Kaskaskia River withdrawal. Such that, during the dry periods, the stored water can be used for supply instead of the need to augment flow in the river for withdrawal.
With the development of these two proposed components and the continually growing amount of waste water being

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discharged into the river, there is a high degree of confidence that supplemental water from the aquifer would be needed only for perhaps a few months during the most severe drought conditions.
We recognize that future operation of the Mahomet wells, in these severe drought conditions, could have impact on nearby existing and proposed wells. However for the short periods that the aquifer may be called upon, we have no reason to expect long-term, aquifer yield limitations.
Thank you.
(Applause.)
MARK MC KOY: The next preregistered commenter is David Cook with Carle Hospital.
DAVID COOK: Good evening. My name is David Cook, the Vice President of Carle Foundation Hospital.
Our hospital stands ready to serve the health-care needs of FutureGen's construction crews and future employees. We wholeheartedly support your proposal to locate a plant in Central Illinois.
Carle Foundation Hospital is the area's Level 1 trauma center. We're a 305-bed facility located in Urbana, about 25 miles from here.

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The hospital recently completed a $65 million addition to accommodate significant growth in patient volumes and plan for additional growth. With over 400 physicians on our medical staff, Carle Foundation Hospital offers services to patients needing higher levels of care, including intensive care, open-heart surgery, perinatal services.

Other Carle Foundation Services include Champaign Surgery Center, Carle RX Express, Carle Therapy Services, Carle Home Services, Arrow Carle Ambulance and Air Life Helicopter Transport. We feel that, with all of these services in place, we can very clearly meet the needs of any expanded.

We'd be honored to serve your health care needs and look forward to a bright future together here in Central Illinois.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: The next preregistered commenter is Larry Sapp, again, with Carle Hospital.

LARRY SAPP: Good evening. My name is a Larry Sapp. I'm also with Carle Hospital, but I represent some different departments. I represent the Director of Arrow Carle Ambulance, Air Life, Air Medical Transport and

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Carle's Regional EMS systems.

On behalf of these departments and Carle Foundation Hospital, we fully support FutureGen locating in Illinois. Arrow ambulance, air life, and Carle EMS have a long standing, collaborative relationship with Douglas County, the City of Tuscola, the surrounding communities and townships.

Douglas County's foresight, led by representatives from Tuscola, has developed an aggressive system, service and education and prevention in the EMS industry. Arrow Carle Ambulance offers advanced life support ambulance services through a network of eleven ambulances strategically deployed from locations throughout Champaign County and northern Douglas County.

Air Life, within minutes, can provide critical care and air transport services to the patients in our region. Derived through agreement, an agreement with Archer Medical and Air Methods, Air Life is also located at the Carle Foundation Hospital.

Our EMS Department at Carle Foundation Hospital provides educational opportunities and system membership to many public and private organizations including large industries such as FutureGen. Each one of these departments, as well as the entire Carle Foundation, look

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forward to welcoming FutureGen into our area and into Illinois.

Thank you. And we look forward to the opportunity to serve you.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: The next preregistered commenter

is Anita Duffy, also with Carle Hospital.

ANITA DUFFY: I think I'm the last one from Carle. But thank you for listening to us.

My name is Anita Duffy. And I'm the Director of Emergency Preparedness for Carle Foundation Hospital. And I, on behalf of Carle Foundation Hospital, would like to reiterate our support for the gen, the FutureGen Project moving into Illinois. Carle's participation at Illinois Department of Public Health is a lead hospital for this entire region which includes 22 counties. And we're charged with leading the area in disaster emergency preparedness.

While we never hope to have to deal with any kind of natural or man-made disaster, we are prepared. Carle Foundation Hospital has stockpiled supplies and equipment that we keep in trailers, and we're available to respond anywhere in the region to help in the need of a crisis or disaster.

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We can provide care, medical care to victims anywhere within Region 6. Our trailers are equipped to set up a field hospital anywhere they may be needed.

So we also have a mobile decontamination trailer that's kept at Carle and is available 24/7 that can respond anywhere needed in this area with a team.

So we work very closely with local, state, and federal authorities in all aspects of emergency planning, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. So Carle Foundation Hospital and Emergency Preparedness Department is eager, very eager to form a good working relationship with the FutureGen Project as you move into Illinois.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: The next preregistered commenter is William Lubey, Illinois AFL-CIO.

WILLIAM LUBEY: It's a long walk from the back.

I just, basically want to bring up for everyone here what I think, and I haven't heard yet, but our greatest resource in this state, I believe our work force. Our organization represents nearly a million members in this state and tens of thousands in the East Central Illinois region. Highly skilled, highly trained work force that's quite used to and quite motivated on getting projects,

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bringing projects in on time and under budget.

The other thing, along those lines, being very succinct here, is that our review of the, of the EIS, we believe there's some inconsistencies in the wage data from the Texas sites. And we just wanted to, we'll be following that up with, with written comments. But we believe that should be more or at least a second review or more thorough review of that.

But, again, thank you for coming; and thank you for letting me speak too. So thank you.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: The next preregistered commenter is Barry Matchett with the Environmental Law and Policy

Center.

BARRY MATCHETT: Good evening. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I'm Barry Matchett. I'm with the Environmental Law and Policy Center. We're a Chicago-based organization that works throughout the Midwest. And we are an organization that very frequently is opposed to coal.

I think, today, we have lawsuits against four coal plants around the Midwest. But not this plant. We are supportive of FutureGen. We are supportive of both Illinois sites. We are supportive for three very specific reasons.

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First, FutureGen represents the opportunity for our country and for our state to utilize Illinois coal and to utilize this research. We have a vast reserve.

Right now, the Illinois coal plants burn about 85 percent western coal. That doesn't seem right to us as citizens of Illinois. It certainly doesn't seem right to us from an economic perspective. And we can use the technology that FutureGen will utilize to burn Illinois coal in an environmentally responsible way. And we are enthusiastic supporters of that.

Number 2, and the thing that seems to be the point of most of the conversations this evening. It sequesters the CO2, the carbon dioxide output from coal plants.

There's no debate. Carbon dioxide is causing global warming. There's a solution to this situation, so that the catastrophic, apocalyptic role of the event at some port will happen, can be averted. This is the solution. We can sequester CO2 that's used, that's created when you burn coal. And we are enthusiastic supporters of this FutureGen. And using Illinois' specific geology is the solution. And we are keen on seeing that happen here in Illinois.

And Number 3 -- And I thought the point that you brought up, sir, was, Mr. Oliver, was particularly

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salient. This, as a technology transfer opportunity for an American technology to be exported to our friends in the developing world, China and India, in particular, who have massive populations, which are all seeking our way of life and our electric needs and they're seeking to do it by using coal, needing us to succeed. We need to succeed for them, and they need to succeed by using the stuff that we do here in Illinois.

We need to have this project here. We need to have it work so that the Chinese, as they move from where they are today to where they will be in 2020 and they're burning a ton of coal, are sequestering carbon, that they're not part of the warming problem, they're part of the solution because we gave them the technology. We sold them the technology. And that's reason to support this project and the reason the Environmental Law and Policy Center is a strong supporter of this project.

So I appreciate the opportunity to speak with the panel; and thank you this evening.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: The next preregistered commenter is Alan Shoemaker with the Tuscola Stone Company.

ALAN SHOEMAKER: Hello. I'm Alan Shoemaker, General Manager of Tuscola Stone Company.

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On behalf of our Tuscola Stone Company, I would like to thank you for your consideration of our community for your project.

Should you select our location, we will stand by and support your project and your construction needs. Your proposed site is located just 4 miles from the deepest quarry of the State of Illinois. We have been in business and serving this area for over 35 years with 16 full-time jobs.

Our rock reserve is over 300 feet deep. We produce all types of construction aggregates for our community and our agricultural limestone for our farmers.

We believe it would be an honor to participate in a project that involves a science that could change the world to provide energy. We fully support FutureGen. Like every good project, it begins with a solid plan. A sold plan must be supported with a solid foundation. It should be nice to know that materials for your foundation can be supplied from just four miles away.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: The next preregistered commenter is Dan Kleiss for Cabot Corporation.

DAN KLEISS: Good evening and welcome. I am

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Dan Kleiss. I'm the Manager of Human Resources for Cabot Corporation, Tuscola facility. On behalf of our chairman, I'd like to read a letter that he has written.

Dear Mr. McKoy: Cabot Corporation is pleased to offer this letter of support for the City of Tuscola and its bid to attract the FutureGen initiative to Eastern Illinois.

Cabot has been an active member of the Tuscola business community for more than 50 years. During that time, Tuscola has provided business climate, quality of life and community values that have greatly contributed to the successful operation of our manufacturing facility. Our business and our employees have been able to succeed and thrive at Tuscola.

Tuscola also provides a well-developed infrastructure that allows convenient access to major cities via railways, highways and airports. The city's commitment to the development and maintenance of this infrastructure is essential for the transport of raw materials and machinery we require and are necessary for the export of Cabot products worldwide.

The city's well-maintained water and sewer systems, good schools, affordable housing and parks and other recreational areas contribute to a high standard of living

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for Cabot employees and their families. These and other amenities help Cabot to attract and retain the skilled

labor work force needed to maintain our competitive advantage.

If sited in Tuscola, the FutureGen initiative can potentially provide an opportunity for the development of new electricity generation technology with positive and environmental impacts that would benefit both residents and businesses.

As one of the major employers of the Tuscola area, Cabot looks forward to learning more about the FutureGen initiative.

Sincerely, Kenneth F. Burns, Chairman and CEO, Cabot Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. MC KOY: The next preregistered commenter is Reggie Clinton, Arcola School District.

REGGIE CLINTON: Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak. Arcola are the neighbors to the south of Tuscola here. And I want to let the board and the group doing the study realize that we have officially, the Board of Education, has gone on record as being in support of this project.

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We feel, not only the benefits of the, this would bring to our area. Mr. Burgess touched on it earlier. The Tuscola schools and all the local school districts around here are able to provide a quality education for the families and the workers that come here.

The other aspect of education I think we missed is not only what we can provide to the workers and families but what the workers and families and FutureGen could offer to our local schools, universities, and community colleges in the area.

One unique thing that I want to mention, that I drove up here -- I'm from Arcola to the south so that those in the audience will understand this example -- but FutureGen recognizes and represents cutting-edge technology, economically, ecologically friendly. What better picture to be a PR statement for that, that on one end of the spectrum you've got FutureGen plant out here and, on the other end of the spectrum, you have the community of the simple life people, the Amish community, coexisting, friendly, together, in that process. I think it's a unique opportunity that this part of the state offers.

We would welcome, and we do welcome FutureGen when you do locate in Illinois. Thank you.

(Applause.)

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MARK MC KOY: The next preregistered commenter is Brian Moody, Executive Director of the Tuscola Economic Development, Incorporated.

BRIAN MOODY: Well, good evening everyone. I was running around like a busy bee ahead of time and didn't sign up on the speakers list so I got at the beginning, so my comments might sound a little strange. Because I was going to thank you all in advance. So I guess I'm thanking you at the end now.

I want to welcome you all, again, back to the community on behalf of TEDI, the Douglas County Engineer Jim Crane, and the Douglas County Task Force for FutureGen.

Our local team really wishes to offer our congratulations and offer our thanks to the team from DOE, from FutureGen, from the associated companies and consultants on the putting the Draft EIS. We really appreciate both the professional and personal sacrifices that so many people in this room made to get this document done, this, to really make this analysis possible. And we are quite proud of you for doing that, as we are of ourselves.

Our overall review has found that the EIS is consistent with the information that we provided from the

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local task force, and we feel it's a very solid characterization of our site here in Douglas County. If you haven't seen it, which I hope you have seen it, it's truly an impressive document.

We also want to make sure we thank the various members of our local task force, the various government agencies, the citizens and our local industry partners, many of whom are here tonight. Without all these folks, we just would not have been able to provide the information that was necessary for the environmental impact volume and then, now, for the Draft EIS. So we owe a great debt to those folks.

To the audience tonight -- I really want to emphasize, and the reason I wanted to get my name a little higher on the list -- this is really your night. This is really your opportunity to comment about FutureGen. We've been out talking about this project for, forever it seems sometimes. We hope you've learn a great deal about the project. We've tried to get that information out to the best of our ability. But this is really your chance to ask questions, regardless of, of the talk about positive or negative and the competition that goes on between the four sites.

It's important for the, for this project, as a whole,

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that these comments get made so these folks can look at these issues and make sure we are considering everything that might be impacted in the area. That's very important to us and to me personally. We've done this in an effort to obtain your true thoughts, your comments and your concerns. And this way, again, the DOE and the FutureGen Alliance can address a lot of these concerns.

I'm going to say it one more time. We sincerely want your comments on the Environmental Impact Statement. There are so many details and so many levels of analysis, and it's easy for all of us who have worked on this to let little details slip through the cracks. And so much of going through the draft versions and all the back and forth is finding those things and making sure that we have looked at them thoroughly. So I want to make sure you do make those comments.

Again, I want to thank everyone throughout this process. We've had exceptional community support, a lot of people have spent a lot of late nights on a lot of different projects to get all this work put together. We've really appreciated it.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to share our community with you and for your questions today and in the past. Thank you very much.

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(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: We have now gone through the list of preregistered commenters. I'll open it up to the floor for anyone else who would like to come up and provide a comment for the first time.

Would anyone like to come up and provide comment?

Please state your name for the record.

TOM LIVINGSTON: Thank you. Good evening. My name is Tom Livingston, from CSX Transportation. I'm joined by Scott Walters, from CSX Transportation, who runs our coal division for the northern part of the country.

CSX is the largest eastern US freight railroad. We are pleased to wholeheartedly support the Tuscola site. It was accurately said earlier that, that Illinois is a coal state. That is very true. But it is also a rail state. And they are linked by history and by industry.

Illinois and Tuscola knows how to do coal. They know how to do rail. There is no more environmentally friendly way to haul this nation's freights than by rail. It takes about a gallon of gas to haul a ton of freight 400 miles.

So we are convinced that there is the least learning curve for Tuscola than any of the sites. CSX operates along 23,000 miles of track, and we see an awful lot of towns. But we are proud of our association with Tuscola

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and the organizers here who have the people, energy, and the talent to join the 17,000 rail employees in the State of Illinois to make this work and to make it work successfully.

I also want to echo the partnership with Representative Rose and the Congressional delegation and the State of Illinois.

So we know that Tuscola, from a rail perspective, gives FutureGen the greatest chance for success, in our minds, as operators of rail and critical transport for this project. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: Do we have someone else who would look to provide oral comment?

Yes, sir. Please state your name for the record.

GEORGE WINDLAND: I am George Windland. That's W-I-N-D-L-A-N-D.

I would like to talk briefly in regards to the impact study. Believe me, I did read it three different times. It's like reading the Federal Register. More of you can laugh at that than some.

First of all, if I may, my involvement with the project is from a number of standpoints. I, first of all,

am the Assistant Fire Chief for the Tuscola Fire

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Department. I'm responsible for, as the safety officer and also as the coordinator for a twelve-man, hazardous material response group.

And how did that come about? I had 35 years with the chemical plant just to the west as a safety requirement for 34 years; and 33 of those years I lived at the plant, physically lived at the plant. My home was there.

So I know the impact of understanding and the concerns involved in regards to the environmental and the personal impact. As being the vice-chairman of the LEPC, which is dictated by the State of Illinois under the Right to Know Act and also as Cochairman of the Douglas County Emergency Management Association, we have looked through the impact study with quite a bit of detail.

I certainly want to appreciate this evening. I had spoke to a number of people around at the different projects and questioned in regards to a few of the statements that was made within the impact study.

First of all, the amount of exposure to the various chemicals at one point in the study, they made mention that it is similar to a petrochemical operation. Well, we, as Tuscola, have had a lot of experience dealing with chemical plants.

In regards to, a lot of the things I was really

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concerned, I'm a native of Tuscola. I am not a native of Tuscola, I'm sorry, but of Illinois. I'm kind of a transplant. I came out of the industry, the operation in Peoria, Illinois; and we came down here in 1957 to take over the fire protection and the emergency response activities for the plant. We have seen many of these chemicals, processes, that certainly, that is well described in the study. It's quite detailed.

And being a native of Illinois, I have one question. I have never seen the Kirkland's snake. You went through so much depth of detail in the habitat that surrounds our area is ideal for the Kirkland's snake. I have never seen one of those. The Indiana bat, I have seen.

But we have spent considerable amount of time, through Joe Victor, as the chairman and coordinator for the Tuscola Emergency Management, in studying the response activities, according to your description within the study, that we feel very strongly that we have the capabilities that, in case of an emergency, we will be able to respond for, for any type of activity that may arise.

I believe, by reading the information, that looking at all of the different aspects of the operation itself, all of these are very proven processes throughout the country or throughout the world. The thing that FutureGen,

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I'm understanding, has done has collectively put all of this together, these processes here in the Tuscola area.

As being associated with the chemical plant and the concerns that they had initially with available water, one of the reasons I came to Tuscola to hire in at the USI, at

that time, was due to the fact that we were in competitents with National Distillers in producing alcohol products. They had a new process; and I wondered as I, many people have asked today, well, first of all, where is Tuscola. And I found the same answer that I have given a number of times. It's 25, 30 miles south of the University of Illinois. But when I came down, I appeared, when we looked at the resources and the distribution, and I certainly appreciate the comments from CS and X -- at that time, when we came in here, it was B and O was the distribution system -- that is capable of transporting the products that were manufactured.

But the thing that really hit me is the river that was flowing into our reservoir and, at that time, the water system we were providing Apollo water over at Tuscola, as well as Arcola and our industry. But that river only starts 28 miles north of here, which was amazing to me how we could use that vast amount of water and we did. At that time, we put in 5 artesian wells into the aquifer at

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Bondville; and, periodically, during drought season, we had to pump in. But the drainage and the output of waste water products certainly supplemented what our needs were, and we had that retention.

We, through the Emergency Response, I believe we have the capability of providing a safe, working environment. I'm sure that the company, when building the operation, will be in compliance with the OSHA requirements, the Department of Labor through the State of Illinois and also through the National Fire Protection Association, to develop their facility.

Again, I want to personally thank the gentlemen and all of the ladies that I had the opportunity to speak to; and they have refreshed a lot of the information that we had some questions on.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: Do we have someone else who would like to provide comment?

Okay. Please state your name for the record.

JAMES YOAKUM: James Yoakum, Y-O-A-K-U-M.

James Yoakum, I'm Project Manager from Ambitec Engineering, a local support person for the large engineering procurement stress management firm here in

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Illinois.

I've been involved in numerous, industrial construction projects and operations across both East Central Illinois and across the nation. I also grew up in Southern Indiana and was the son of a coal miner. So I understand the importance of Midwest coal and the differences between good coal and bad coal and needing to find a good application for, for the coal we have here. So I'm very excited about this project.

Mainly, as a local technical resource and a resident of Tuscola, I'm excited about this opportunity and what's at stake. We have outstanding local, technical resources,

contractors and future employees to support all phases of the FutureGen Project. We're glad you're here. We hope you stay here.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: Do we have someone else who would like to provide comment?

Please state your name for the record.

JOHN KENNEDY: Good evening. I'm John Kennedy. I'm a manufacturing manager and an intent engineering personnel at one of our local facilities.

I just want to state that, in these days in this

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county and in this world, energy is a real commodity. And there's a lot of not in my backyard attitudes in the country, in the world, today. And I guess the one thing I want to state is that you're not going to find that here with this project in Tuscola.

You know, if it was a nuclear plant, there would be opposition. No doubt. If it was a oil refinery, there would be opposition; no question. But from the things that I've seen, the literature that I've read, there's a lot of positives for this program. And I think that you'll find that, as a community, we're going to pull together. We have pulled together. We're going to be active, and we're going to help bring this to our town.

It's a positive thing. I don't see negatives. And I think it's something that we can all get on board and support.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: Do we have someone else who would like to provide comment? You might have to waive your hand around since it's hard, maybe, for me to spot your hand.

Yes, sir. Please provide your name for the record.

DENNIS HANNER: My name is Dennis Hanner, and I'm a local resident of this area. I grew up here. My

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parents raised me and my siblings. I have raised my children here. My grandchildren, part of them, are being raised here. And I hope my great grandchildren are.

As I look at this project and I've attended the meetings that we've had in the past, there's been questions I had.

One was the water. Every time an article appears in the newspaper, I've taken time to read it to find out what it says and what it's talking about. The water question has been answered in my mind. The natural habitat question has been answered in my mind. The safety of the plant has been answered in my mind.

The noise level. Some people ask that. Is there going to be a problem with the noise. Well, as the crow flies, we live about a mile from Lyondell. They make noise, but it is not a problem for our life.

I guess the best way of saying it is, I feel comfortable with the problems with the possibility of FutureGen being located here. To me, it is a great thing;

and it's, I just feel good about it. I guess that's the best way of saying it.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: Do we have someone else who would like to provide comment?

Yes, ma'am. Please state your name for the record.

ANN ROBERTSON: My name is Ann Robertson, and I'm a resident of Tuscola. And the young man who mentioned that he had been here for six generations, I'm a little older than he is. I have, I'm five generations in East Central Illinois and six generations for Southern Illinois. So this project is very near to my heart.

And I, and I just want to say how pleased I am that you're here. It's been wonderful to sit here in this audience and see the wonderful community and the recognition of the resources that we have here. Because we do live in a beautiful place. And even though I was raised in this area, I married an immigrant, and we gallivanted around the country for about 20 years and lived in other countries. So I've had the opportunity to see some other places, and we came back here.

And you missed the drought. We had about 3 weeks of drought here. So the gentleman who said we had abundant water, a few weeks ago, we wouldn't have said that; and we would have been a little worried about our crops here.

But we do have a lot of resources. Unfortunately, though, those of you who know me from church know that I sit in the back pew; and I hardly ever come up to the front of the, of the congregation unless it's to take communion or something.

So this is hard for me to be up here and talk about this. And I have to raise some issues. And I do have a few things that I want to share with you, partly from a book, because I'm a writer/resource person. I'm not a public speaker.

This is a book called Big Coal. This has been donated to the Tuscola Public Library. And Chapter 9 addresses the Illinois coal industry and talks about FutureGen, specifically. So, I want to encourage you to check it out from the library or buy it from your local book store. Okay.

Now, because my eyes are not as good as what they used to be, I'm going to have to read a few quotes from this book, just to kind of share with you. So just bear with me here while I find my place.

This book, by the way, was not written by a tree hugger. We lived in California, and so we were exposed to the folks that hug the old growth trees. And when I saw my first one, I realized why they did it. They are beautiful trees.

But this is not one of those people. He's a very well-respected journalist who has researched coal, the coal industry in depth.

And on Page 212 to 213, he talks specifically about FutureGen or 'NeverGen,' as it's affectionately known to some people in the industry. He believes and his research suggests that it will turn out to be just another expensive government boondoggle. It would be foolish to bet on FutureGen as a solution to America's energies problems. He concedes that there are certainly some research potential in FutureGen.

However, it's, he also says that it's hard to fine anyone without a vested interest in the project who really believes that FutureGen is anything but an expensive, political decoy to make it look like the coal industry is doing something big and important while, in fact, it is doing very little.

Not my words. His words. Based on research.

Mr. Goodell gives examples in several areas of the book that coal companies have a pattern of using decoys including language like: Clean coal technology.

And this buys time for the coal industry so they can continue to conduct business as usual and cash in before the economic hurricane of global warming hits.

The truth is that coal mining is anything but clean. And my mother's farm in Southern Illinois, right now, is

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being threatened by longwall coal mining.

Now, one of the things, and I know you're good people and you have done a wonderful job. We're very happy to have you here. Okay. But one of the things that irritates me about FutureGen and the coalition is what a wonderful opportunity to make the coal companies face up to the environmentally devastating practices that they are currently using in coal. And you have not addressed those issues. And these issues need to be addressed.

Anyone here in Illinois can go to Southern Illinois, and you can see where farmland has been devastated because of coal mining. There are independent farmers and groups that have combined in almost a David and Goliath battle to fight the coal companies and protect their farmland.

Now, they aren't against coal mining. They are against the type of mining methods, right now, that are destroying their land and the water supplies. So we need to face up to these realities.

I did not get copyright to print out some of the photographs that are on various web sites now that show what longwall mining look like, or I would have brought them with me here tonight. But I encourage you to go and take a look at some of those web sites or visit over by Litchfield and some of the other areas in Southern

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Illinois.

So, on page 251, the author, here, goes and says, the most dangerous thing about our continued dependence on coal is not what it does to our lungs or mountains -- and I'd like to add our fields and water here -- or even our climate, but what it does to our minds. It preserves the illusion that we don't have to change our thinking.

It is important to see that the barriers to change

are not technological but political. And I guess this why I'm sharing with you today.

20 or 30 years ago, FutureGen may have been a great project. But right now, in fact, I talked with an environmental policy expert in the Department of Defense this afternoon; and he believes that by the time FutureGen is built, if it's built -- by the way the DOD has bought into solar technology, not coal technology -- he believes that it will be a dinosaur. And it's moving us in the wrong direction. We have to focus on sustainable energy.

So what does that mean for Tuscola and some of the other communities that have embraced this and, certainly, for our state that would benefit so much from some economic change and some jobs and putting some extra folks to work here with the wonderful talents that we have. Because we do. We have all the talent here that you would ever need

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to do this project. And we have all the support and education here that you would ever need to do this project.

But what if we changed the project? What if we made it truly sustainable energy? There are a growing number of scientists that believe that the money spent right now on coal technology is wasted money, that, in fact, that same money, spent on solar technology, wind technology, or biomass would be far better used and a far better support of our taxpayer dollars.

So I'm sharing this with you today, not because I'm trying to be argumentative; because I'm not. I, in fact, I tend to be somebody who just wants to encourage and support; and I'm not a cheerleader, exactly; but you know, I do want to, to be supportive. But I can't be supportive of this. You know, I have to be truthful about the issues that exist.

But I do want to provide you with more information. And what I have done is put together some web sites of various information regarding sustainable technology and other choices that we could make rather than moving in this direction that would truly put us on the map as the future community.

Now, when I was at the coffee shop, they had green paper; so, of course, I had to put it on green paper. But

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I'm going to put it over there on the table; and, if anyone is really interested in seeing an alternative or looking at some alternatives, it will be over there.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MARK MC KOY: As Ann pointed out, it is often difficult to come and speak in public when you have a viewpoint that, maybe, is not consistent with the viewpoints that are being shared by all of the other people coming up. And of course, you people have demonstrated that you're very gracious.

We are here to hold this public hearing because we realize that such a project would have impacts on people that need to be addressed, need to be considered. We are here because there are people who have views that maybe

aren't entirely consistent with the program.
But the US Department of Energy believes it is very important for everyone to have an opportunity to speak and to participate in the process.
Do we have someone else who would like to provide comment?
One thing Brian Moody pointed out was that the document might have some small inconsistencies in it. But, you know, if it's something that relates to you or to your

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family or to your property, it's not a small inconsistency or a small thing to you. It can be a very large thing.
And, again, it's very important that we get to hear these things. So, I don't want you to be afraid to come up here and speak. If you are not comfortable coming up here to speak, again, don't hesitate to write a letter or to send an e-mail or to use the comment cards to provide us with your thoughts, your concerns.
Is there anyone who would like to come up and provide comment?
You know, one comment I heard very early on; and I can't remember exactly who said it -- I think maybe it was State Representative Chapin Rose -- that this community was beautiful. And, you know one of the things that I noticed and I think all of us working on the Draft EIS noticed when we came into this area, was that the community was, indeed, beautiful here.
The streets are clean. The houses are neat and nicely kept. And everything around here is in order. This is really an ideal community to be in. And it really is a wonderful place. We've had a fantastic time here this week. We have really enjoyed it.
(Applause.)
We'd like to gather more comments. Is there anyone

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else who would like to come up and provide comment?
Maybe I'm not seeing the hands that are waiving.
I am very happy with the large turnout. This is fantastic.
Okay. Well, let me get one thing. I'll grab my notes here so that I can formally close out the hearing if no one else wants to provide comment. But, again, would anyone like to provide comment?
And again, if you want to talk to me, as soon as the hearing is over, you know, I'll be happy to talk with you then or any other time. You can give me a call. I'll be happy to talk with you on the phone. That's not a problem. I'd love to talk with you.
Okay. Thank you for your comments and participation. Remember that you may submit comments until July 16, 2007.
This concludes the public hearing for the FutureGen Project. Let the record show that this hearing adjourned at 8:58 p.m.
Thank you.

Which were all the proceedings had and entered

of record at the Department of Energy's Public Hearing for the FutureGen Project.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Susan Bursa, a Notary Public and Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that on the said date the foregoing proceedings were taken down in shorthand by me and that the foregoing transcript contains a true and accurate transcription of all such shorthand notes.

I further certify that I am a disinterested party to the proceedings herein and that I am not a relative of any of the parties hereto, that I am not in the employ of any of the parties hereto, and am not otherwise interested in the outcome of this hearing.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 18th day of July, A.D. 2006.

Notary Public and
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License No. 084-3615.

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Errata for the Transcript of
the U.S. Department of Energy
FutureGen Public Hearing

June 21, 2007
Buffalo Civic Center
Buffalo, Texas

Acronyms Used

CD – Compact disc
CO2 – Carbon dioxide
DOE – Department of Energy
EIS – Environmental Impact Statement
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
NETL – National Energy Technology Laboratory
NOx – Nitrogen Oxides
PHE – Potomac Hudson Engineering, Inc.
R&D – Research and development
TCEQ – Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Page 6

- Line 1 – Change "Hoffman" to "Hoffmann"
- Line 4 – Change "Wilham" to "Gwilliam"
- Line 10 – Change "Thomas" to "Potomac"
- Line 10 – Change "TETRA" to "Tetra"
- Line 11 – Change "Lewis" to "Louis"
- Line 16 – Change "NEPA Document Manager" to "Project Manager"
- Line 17 – Delete "the"
- Line 18 – Change "P.Hd" to "PHE"
- Line 19 - Change "TETRA" to "Tetra"
- Line 19 - Change "Lewis" to "Louis"

Page 9

- Line 21 – Insert "the" after "…down to…"

Page 12

- Line 1 – Insert "who" after "It is we…"
- Line 12 – Change "noxin" to "NOx"
- Line 14 – Delete "a" after "…and it's…"

Page 14

- Line 3 – Change "Batel" to "Battelle"
- Line 9 – change "group" to "Group"
- Line 20 – change "is" to "are"

Page 15

Line 3 – Insert “of a” after “more”
Line 11 – Change “challenge” to “challenges”
Line 14 – Change “Batel” to “Battelle”
Line 17 – Change “foot” to “feet”
Line 21 - Change “foot” to “feet”

Page 16
Line 15 – Change “a” to “The”
Line 15 – Change “group” to “Group”

Page 18
Line 18 – Change “So the bottom to me is – line is is…” to “So the bottom line to me is…”

Page 19
Line 3 – Change “environment” to “environmental”

Page 29
Line 9 – Change “submits” to “emits”
Line 15 – Change “there is” to “there are”
Line 24 – Change “noxin” to “NOx”

Page 30
Line 21 – Change “T.C.E.” to “T.C.E.Q.”

Page 30
Line 4 - Change “T.C.E.” to “T.C.E.Q.”
Line 10 – Delete “.” after “T.C.E.Q.”

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT HEARING

JUNE 21, 2007

BUFFALO, LEON COUNTY, TEXAS

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MR. McKOY: Welcome to the Department of Energy's Public Hearing for the FutureGen Project. Let the record show that the hearing began on June 21st, 2007, at 7:03 p.m. at the Buffalo Civic Center in Buffalo, Texas.

As part of its compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the DOE has produced a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS. This document analyzes the potential environmental impact at the alternative sites for the proposed FutureGen Project. Both the document and the comments received should help DOE in making better informed decisions.

The Draft EIS has been distributed to persons who have previously expressed some type of interest in the project. If you previously requested a copy of the document and have not received it, please provide your mailing address and name to Rachel Spangenberg, Rachel is back here near the entrance, provide that information to her and we'll try to get a copy to you as quickly as we can. Also please indicate to Rachel in what form you would like to receive the document.

Furthermore, there are comment cards available that can be used to request a copy of the Draft EIS as well as the Final EIS. These cards are located at the DOE exhibits back in the exhibit area. The document is available in three forms. It's available in electronic form on a CD, you can get a hard copy of the summary plus a CD with the entire document,

or you can get the entire document in hard copy form. We have with us this evening a limited number of hard copy summaries and CDs.

After the Draft EIS is distributed to the public a public hearing is held to help gather comments on the documents and on the proposed federal action.

During the informal session earlier this evening, between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m., DOE and its support contractors as well as representatives of the FutureGen Alliance and the local site proponents; that is, the FutureGen Texas Heart of Brazos team, were available to listen to your concerns and to attempt to answer your questions. We hope this session was as informative for you as it was for us.

During the formal session tonight we will briefly present the role of DOE and we will go over the relevant parts of the NEPA compliance process and the remaining schedule and the FutureGen Alliance will briefly present an overview of the FutureGen Project. Then we will begin the formal comment session.

As with the scoping meetings held in August, we will give priority to elected officials and their designated representatives to go first. However, DOE realized that during the scoping meetings the general public had to wait a long time before having the opportunity to speak. This time with the assistance and cooperation of elected officials, we hope to

give the general public an opportunity to speak sooner this evening.

We hope that all of you can stay for the entire oral comment session. For those of you who cannot stay or for those of you who do not feel comfortable speaking in front of a large audience, we do have a separate comment session located at the back and there should be someone there who could make a transcript. While we prefer that you provide oral comments here during the formal oral comment session later this evening, the comment session located in the back is available as an alternative.

Written comments are given equal weight, but the oral comments and written comments tend to be crafted more clearly and can be written at your convenience. You may provide written comments instead of, or in addition to, oral comments.

Again, there are comment cards available at the DOE exhibits. You can fill out the cards and submit them tonight or any time before the close of the comment period on July 16th. You can also provide comments by email, by regular mail, by faxes, by voice mails and by telephone calls as indicated on the literature that's available at the DOE exhibits.

On our agenda tonight we will have a presentation on DOE's role in the project. That presentation

will be provided by Tom Sarkus. Tom is with the Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory in Pittsburgh. There will also be an overview provided by Jerry Oliver, the Senior Vice President for the FutureGen Alliance, and I will provide a brief overview of some of the most relevant points of the NEPA compliance process as well as the schedule, and finally we will get to the comments provided by you.

Visiting with us tonight, we have Michael Williams, Texas Railroad Commissioner. Please stand, Michael.

Lindsay Davis and Chris Turner, representing Congressman Chet Edwards. Would you please stand?

Barry Joe Curley, representing State Senator Steve Ogden.

Byron Ryder, Leon County Judge.

Daniel Burkeen, Limestone County Judge.

Linda Grant, Freestone County Judge.

Jan Rowe, Robertson County Judge.

Judy Kirkpatrick, Mayor of Jewett.

And Roy Hill, Mayor of Fairfield.

Representing the Department of Energy, again, Tom Sarkus. He's with the DOE office in Pittsburgh. Tom is the DOE Project Director for FutureGen. Tom is with the Office of Coal and Power, R & D.

We have Otis Mills with DOE in Pittsburgh. Otis is our media relations expert. Otis.

Jeff Hoffman, DOE-Pittsburgh. Jeff is an assistant engineer working on the project with us.

Recently joining the DOE FutureGen team is Bill Wilham, a geologist with DOE in Morgantown.

And of course myself, Mark McKoy. I'm the DOE Environmental Manager and DOE NEPA Document Manager for the FutureGen Project.

I also would like to acknowledge the team that has worked so hard to put together the Draft EIS. That document was prepared by Thomas Hudson Engineering plus TETRA Tech plus Lewis Berger.

We have with us this evening Fred Carey, the president of Potomac Hudson Engineering.

And the person who has had to endure the most in putting this document together, assembling it, making everything work with it, Debra Walker, the NEPA Document Manager with the Potomac Hudson Engineering.

I would also like to recognize all of the P.Hd team, TETRA Tech, and Lewis Berger people here who have worked so hard on the project. Would you either stand up, step forward or something.

And now it's time for a few presentations to provide you with some background information regarding the project. Here is Tom Sarkus with DOE's role in the project.

MR. SARKUS: Good evening and welcome to the

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Hearing.

This is a nighttime photo of Tampa Electric's Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Power Plant. It is one of just two coal based IGCC plants in the United States, and I'm proud to often say that I had the distinct privilege of supervising the DOE sponsorship in both of them, and it's only one of six in the world. As you can see from the photo, this is not your father's coal based power plant. It is the top dispatcher number one unit in Tampa Electric's generating system and it's been operating commercially since September of 1996. Going on 11 years. With operational plants having designs that are in most cases over ten and approaching fifteen years old, it's time to build upon the lessons from these early pioneer plants and to bring on the next generation of clean coal technologies: FutureGen.

When the Wabash River in Tampa gasification facilities were designed in the early 1990s, key external, or environmental drivers, were things like sulfur and nitrogen oxide emission. They were relevant at that time to the problem of acid rain. We also had to focus on technical challenges like combining and effectively integrating the many pieces of a gasification power plant with a combined cycle power plant, or turbine as you may hear.

Today we have additional drivers, environmental drivers, such as mercury emissions and CO 2, and of course CO 2

is relevant to climate change. These drivers will require us to integrate even additional pieces and processes into the coal based IGCC plants of tomorrow. And we feel that FutureGen is going to be a prototype for future power plants.

You've probably heard about FutureGen in a context of a technology based strategy to address the problem of climate change; that is, FutureGen will produce and separate hydrogen and carbon dioxide. If we will use the hydrogen to produce electric power and we will then store, the technical word that we use a lot is sequester, but it basically means to store, geologically the CO 2 in deep saline aquifers.

This slide pairs the major CO 2 sources with nature's CO 2 storage reservoirs in North America. I'm often asked, Tom, is there enough storage capacity for all the CO 2 from power plants? Well, this slide shows that we produce 3.8 gigatons a year of CO 2 and we have 3,800 gigatons of CO 2 storage in saline aquifers. Actually, that's a conservative estimate. Some estimates run as high as double that, but let's use the conservative estimate. That should be more than enough CO 2 storage capacity underground to supply a thousand years of all the CO 2 produced in North America at current rates. That should be more than enough for us given that we only have a 250 year supply of coal at current levels.

FutureGen is currently estimated to cost 1.757 billion dollars, or rounded to 1.8 billion dollars. That

includes approximately one-and-a-half, or 1.5 billion dollars to design and build the plant and the geologic storage facility plus about three hundred million dollars to operate those facilities for three years. It's estimated that FutureGen will generate approximately three hundred million dollars in electricity revenues, which will be used largely to offset the cost of operation. FutureGen is being implemented through a cooperative agreement between the Department of Energy and the FutureGen Industrial Alliance. The Alliance consists of 12 coal mining and coal based electric power companies, and all of their corporate logos are shown here.

The cooperative agreement between the Department of Energy and the FutureGen Industrial Alliance is structured around six budget periods which are shown on this schedule. We recently transitioned from what we call Budget Period Zero, and that was Project Structuring and Conceptual Design, into Budget Period One, which is Preliminary Design. Over the past year, much work, as you know, has focused on site selection and conceptual design. We had, the Alliance had an initial competition. They received 12 proposals and it whittled it down to four best candidates, including Jewett.

Over the next year some of that focus will shift towards selecting technology and equipment suppliers for the major portions and project. Design will continue into the spring of 2009 and construction will then begin and we will run

through 2011 followed by shakedown and start-up. We expect to begin commercial operations of FutureGen by the end of 2012.

DOE and the FutureGen Alliance are splitting the project cost with 74 percent to DOE and 26 percent to the Alliance. As for international participation, foreign companies may join the Alliance as equal members while foreign government contributions are counted on the government side of the project ledger. We hope to secure at least 80 million dollars from foreign governments at 10 million dollars each, and so far four countries have announced their intention to join. Those are India, South Korea, China and Japan, and DOE is currently working to develop an international agreement to facilitate that.

Here's my contact information. Thanks for your kind attention. I look forward to hearing your comments later in the hearing.

MR. McKOY: Thank you, Tom. Next will be a project overview presented by Jerry Oliver, Senior Vice President for Project Development with the FutureGen Alliance. He will provide a project overview and update.

MR. OLIVER: Good evening. It's really, really good to be back in The Heart of Brazos. I was here nine months ago and it rained the day I was here and it rained again so that's good, huh? And it really is amazing to me it's been nine months though. We have accomplished a lot, and when I say

we, that includes the Department of Energy, it includes your team here in The Heart of Brazos, it includes the state team, the Texas FutureGen team, it includes the Alliance, the Alliance members and our Alliance partners who will talk about it. We couldn't have done it without everybody, and I'll try to go through that a little bit tonight and try to explain it, but to me the nine months has gone by as it was just a few weeks. So I'm really pleased to be back.

I did want to make a comment about the video which they showed. We did show it at our Board of Directors meeting, we also showed it at our technical meeting, and so copies of that have essentially gone around the globe. So Jewett is now pretty well-known across the world so just so you know you are no longer just a small community.

Okay. Let me give you some background. This is the world's first, or it will be, the world's first near zero emission coal fuel power plant. We're going to take out 90 percent of the CO 2 and we're going to put at least a million tons of that underground and store it, as he said, sequester it.

We're also going to build this as a research platform. So instead of being a commercial plant, the idea is to allow us to push the envelope on technology and to create essentially a living laboratory.

It is a global public-private partnership and we

can't do this without everybody's involvement. It is we are really trying to do too much and if we can't get the support of both the communities involved and the people that are trying to do this it will not work.

So we have some very clear objectives with the project. We're now designing the plant, we're going to build, and we're going to operate one that is near zero emissions. We're going to, as I said before, put a million tons a year of CO 2 underground and leave it there and understand what the implication of that is and what the meaning of that is.

We're also going to generate very low levels of noxin, particular matter, and of mercury. We're going to take what we do and make sure that it gets out into the rest of the world. Because if you do this and it's a one off, we fail. So the idea is that we take the technologies that we develop and make sure that they're accepted and that we're actually doing things that are environmentally designed that are also commercially feasible so that the world will use them, and what we do design in this plant will also be something that the rest of the globe will take on.

Why do we need it? We need it because this project provides us with a real opportunity to understand the implication of taking CO 2 out of the power plant and putting it underground and do that on a continuous basis and understand what happens to it when it's under. We are also going to have

the opportunity to really push technology in this plant. Because it is a research platform and not a commercial project, we basically can actually take every piece of that and we can push it beyond what you normally would do.

We also are quite far along, and I think that we can continue to move because we really don't have the normal commercial drivers, we have the driver to create a plant that will take technology into the future out across the globe. So we have a different set of drivers than a normal commercial project. And we have international participation. The key is is to make sure that they're actually actively involved so that what we do is taken out into the world.

As Tom said, we have 12 companies that are part of the Alliance. They represent in the U.S. 20 percent of the electric power, 40 percent of the coal, around the globe, they're on every continent, and -- and -- and basically covering the breath of what you can do with power and coal and coal-related technologies. We are a nonprofit 501-C. So we're set up, we're -- what the Alliance members do essentially is donate money to this, they don't really have anything to get out of it other than the value, the goodness that's created by doing what we're trying to do.

The government is involved as well in the same way and they're involved through the Department of Energy. As Tom said, they're bringing in other countries, other

governments into the program. In addition we have some tremendous support, and tonight you had a lot of people here from Batel. Batel is our partner taking care of the underground, the subsurface for sequestration. They're also a general manager, contractor that work with us. They're also one of the premier R & D organizations in the United States. We take full advantage of experts across the globe and we use them in every act that we do. And we just recently took on the Washington group as our engineer, as we go forward, our construction manager, and they are now playing a big role in the project.

We're going to go -- we're going to advance IGCC technology by pushing the -- the envelope on coal that can be bedded. We're going to use eastern, western coal. We'll also test lignite. So we will in fact run coals from Texas as well as coals from the rest of the United States.

We are going to push, as I said earlier, every aspect of the project. We're going to basically try to make sure that the gasification technology used here is as good as we can get. We're going to push the fact that there is no hydrogen turbines. We will in fact have one that will operate hydrogen and essentially every part in between. We're going to integrate the CO 2 capture with operating a power plant, which is no easy thing. Just taking the CO 2 and putting it underground is one thing, but to have -- to create the

redundancy in a power plant so that you can actually make sure that the CO 2 goes underground is -- is a -- it's a little bit more challenging aspect of the project.

And lastly, and probably uniquely, we're going to give ourselves the opportunity to test new technology, the living laboratory concept, and have purse strings that will take technologies that are developed in the laboratory in the United States and elsewhere and take them from the scale they're at into something more commercial and then move those into the -- into plants like this in the future. So a lot of challenge but clearly a lot of opportunity to succeed with the goals we have.

In the sequestration area, the models that are being created by Batel right now and that are actually being worked on as well in the state of Texas are going to push the envelope in what you can really do to look at underground, 8,000 foot down, what happens to CO 2. We're going to push what we call the monitoring system, the MMV system, beyond what is currently done so that we can understand at essentially all levels what's going on with CO 2 in a fairly complex environment, 8,000 foot below the ground, 6 to 8,000 foot below ground.

And lastly, to build on the comment that Tom was making, that if you do this and you put your CO 2 long-term into saline formations instead of up into the air, there is a

lot of storage projection, in the United States a thousand years, but the numbers, if you look on the left-hand side of this, there's actually 11,000 gigatons at least of storage capacity around the globe. So not only can we take care of CO 2 for -- for the United States, but if the technology is adopted there will be plenty of CO 2 underground around the globe for the next 500 to a thousand years.

Right now we're -- we're transitioning conceptual designs and preliminary designs. We've been working on a lot of alternative ways to build this plant. We've been trying to make sure that we keep it fuel flexible, which is a challenge in itself. We have taken a lot of offered ways to do this down to three and we've costed those out, and since I was here last and -- and done material balances so we know what that's worth. What we're doing now with a Washington group is taking it down to one, and -- and as we come down to one we're going out into the market asking the vendors, the people that can build or that have technology for the parts of the plant to step up and help us come up with what we're going to need to make this thing work. So it -- it -- from a surface side and a subsurface we're moving the -- essentially moving the ball forward so we can be in the field as quickly as possible.

Tom showed you 1.8 billion; I show 1.5. You got to keep in mind in the difference of numbers, three hundred million dollars, wholesale, or whole purchases, which will

offset with the sale of electric power, so the capital number is 1.5 billion in -- in dollars today.

The only other thing on this, because we've already showed you the schedule and so on, is that we are going to break ground in 2009, I told you that back last year in August, we're stilling do that. We've had a delay and we've had some slowdowns, we're here a couple of months late, but it's not going to change when we start. We're also going to have the plant operational in 2012. That is our goal. I think we can still make it.

Okay. So currently what we're doing is we're working on a preliminary design of both the surface and subsurface. We're doing a lot of work with the technologies that are possible to go into this facility. We are working on the -- with -- with each one of the four sites on due diligence on looking at their offers that they made a year ago and understanding every piece of it. We've just finalized the guidance for the best and final offer and we've been supporting the Department of Energy in the -- in the EIS process over the last year, and that -- that's a big piece of the work in addition to everything else.

So -- so where are we? We just sent to the -- to the state team and to your local Heart of Brazos team last Friday guidance on the best and final offer. We've asked for the proposal to come back to us on August the 1st. The 29th of

October, if we stay in the same schedule, the Department of Energy will make a decision, record of decision on the four sites. If they do that, in November we'll pick a site, and as far as I'm concerned the day after we pick a site I'll be at that site with a team. So there -- we will start as soon as we can. We are -- we are definitely making sure that we're ready.

So the bottom to me is -- line is is that the project's moving, it's moving fast, we are on track. We are happy to be here. I'm really interested in comments as well and appreciate the opportunity to give you an update. Thank you very much.

MR. McKOY: Thank you, Jerry. I went over the relevant aspects, or fine points at NEPA for you at the Scoping Meeting last August, but I realize there may be some people here who were not present during that meeting. I'll go over a few of the most salient points again and touch on whatever else is of importance in the NEPA process at this point in time.

NEPA stands for the National Environmental Policy Act. It is a federal law, a federal statute. It became effective January 1st, 1970, and it applies to all federal agencies. It does not apply to state agencies. It does not apply to local government or to individuals or private sector organizations, only to the federal government agencies. It has often been called the national charter for protection of the environment because it was the first statute to comprehensively

address potential impact to the environment from at least federal action.

It promotes environment consideration in the decision-making process. The NEPA mandate is that environmental information must be available to public officials and citizens before federal decisions are made and before federal actions are taken. It must be based on high quality information. The scientific analyses involved should be accurate. There is an obligation to provide the document to federal agencies having relevant expertise so that they can review and comment on the document. And in fact we provide the document to state agencies, local government who can also provide comment on the document.

Most importantly, we're required to provide an opportunity for the public to participate. So the purpose of this public hearing that we are at tonight is to invite comments from interested or affected persons and organizations on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Appropriate comments would focus on the adequacy of the EIS, the merits of the alternatives, and the proposed federal action especially relative to potential environmental impact.

We are at the middle of the process. We have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement and put that out to the public for the public to review. We will take the comments that we receive and use those comments to prepare the

Final EIS. The Final EIS will then be put out to the public for their review also. No sooner than 30 days thereafter the Department of Energy may issue a record of decision.

DOE does have some responsibilities in the process. DOE must consider public comments both individually and collectively. DOE must respond to public comments in the Final EIS in one of the following ways: DOE can modify the alternative, evaluate alternatives not previously given serious consideration, DOE can supplement, improve, or modify the analyses and make factual corrections. Otherwise DOE must explain why comments do not warrant further agency response. We will take all of the substantive comments and include them in the Final EIS.

As I said a moment ago, we are at the middle of the process. So we have now gotten to the point where we are conducting the public hearings as shown there for June of this year. We hope to have the Final EIS distributed to the public sometime in September and that would allow us to have a record of decision in October of this year.

DOE does want your participation. We take this process very seriously. We want to hear from persons who are interested or affected, particularly if they have concerns about the project or if they do not want the project we want to hear from them. Please send your comments to me. That is if they are written comments send them to the NEPA document

manager, Mail Stop N03, P. O. Box 8840, Morgantown, West Virginia, 26507-0880. You can send email to FutureGen.eis@netl.doe.gov. Keep in mind the comment period closes July 16th so if you're sending a letter or a comment card through the mail it needs to be postmarked by that date.

This is the time to begin the formal comment period when the public is invited to provide oral comments regarding the adequacy of the EIS, the merits of the alternatives, or the proposed federal action. For those of you providing oral comments, we ask that you keep your comments to within a five-minute time frame. This allows us to make sure everyone has an equal opportunity to provide comments. You may speak a second time after everyone has a first chance to speak.

It is important to make your views known either now in oral statements or in writing. Again, I urge you to use the comment cards, they look like this, they're located at the back. If you would like to receive a copy of the Final EIS put your name and address on the card. At the bottom please check the box that indicates whether you would like a hard copy or a CD. If you would like to use the card to request a copy of the Draft EIS, which is available now, please write in the comment section that you would like to receive a draft and in which form you would like to receive it. There's room here to write some comments. You can hand these in tonight, you can put a stamp on the back and mail them to -- to me any time before

July 16th, and, of course, you can send the comments through other means such as writing emails, formal letters, whatever. Again, all comments will be considered equally as we continue to develop the Final EIS.

I'll quickly go through the rules for the comment session. Again, five minutes per speaker please. I'll try to make sure there are at least two opportunities to speak provided time allows. We will let government officials and preregistered speakers go first. A transcript is being made. We have a court reporter here. So when you come to the microphone to speak please state your name, please speak clearly, and it may be necessary that you spell your name also for the court reporter. A copy of the transcript of this meeting will be available at the Fairfield City Library within a few weeks and will be part of the Final EIS.

Okay. It's time to start with the commenters. The first commenter will be Michael Williams, the Texas Railroad Commissioner.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mark, thank you. On behalf of Governor Perry, myself, as well as the FutureGen Texas team, let me welcome you to an area in your home quite frankly. You know, I've spent most of the afternoon, morning and afternoon with Governor Perry in Houston and I would be remiss if I did not say thank you to The Heart of Brazos team, Tom, you and your folks, for all of the hard work you put in to helping the

state capture this project, and I'd also be remiss if I did not say thank you, Tom, to you and Mark, and of course Jerry, for what you've been doing with us and working with us.

I only have one substantive comment as it relates to the NEPA process and to the EIS because I'm going to leave it to -- to perhaps others to make our official comment, and that is quite frankly to say what I've said before is that we commend the fact that the project, that the -- the analysis was thorough, was concise, and we appreciate the sort of relationship that we've had with you working through this.

Jerry, you had mentioned, as I get ready to leave, you mentioned that you came to this area nine months ago?

MR. OLIVER: In August.

MR. WILLIAMS: In August, you came back today, and I think there's something about the third time being a charm. So I look forward to you coming back to Texas on the day after the decision is made, because as we said in the video, in the DVD, you bring FutureGen to Texas, we'll do you right. Y'all take care now.

MR. McKOY: Thank you, Michael. Those were compliments. Of course with the document approaching nearly 2,000 pages I'm not sure if it's concise, but we do appreciate the compliments.

The next commenter is Byron Ryder, Leon County

Judge.

MR. RYDER: Byron Ryder, Leon County Judge. I just want to tell you, first of all thank you for being here, it's a great support. We couldn't do this without you and it's taken all these people in this room to get this to this point. There's people behind the scenes doing things, but because of your enthusiasm and your push on us we have gone this far, and I think just a little bit more push and we're going to have them here for the third time like we talked about. But we definitely want them here for the third time. I do believe that. Don't we, is that right? You know, there's been three real important people, other than all the volunteers, but we've had Nucor Steel, Westmoreland Coal, NRG, those people have supported this 100 percent. They have been behind us, they've given us all the support we need, they've given information we need, and we need to give them a hand. I would appreciate it right now.

And as for the DOE, they have done an outstanding job with this environmental statement. They are very -- have done a good, they've been very thorough, have treated us very well I feel like in the -- in the statement, and we commend very much to -- to -- maybe this particular statement will be the winning statement, not maybe, it will be the winning statement. And we need, we want them here, and we'd like to welcome you back any time. Thank y'all very

much.

MR. McKOY: The next commenter is Daniel Burkeen, Limestone County Judge.

MR. BURKEEN: I'm Daniel Burkeen, Limestone County Judge, and I'll try to be brief. I want to join in Judge Ryder's comments that he made appreciating those folks, and I also want to thank Judge Ryder for all the work he's done. He's been very actively involved in this project here in Leon County and in the area, so we appreciate all that he's done.

We're excited about this project over in Limestone County. We've got the NRG power plant there, we've got a very good working relationship with NRG. We've had a coal powered plant there for a long time in Limestone County. We've got a good working relationship with them. They've been a very vital part of our community. We're looking forward to FutureGen. The environmental processes involved in FutureGen are exciting. They're an exciting part of the future worldwide and we're excited to have this prototype plant I'm hoping will be right here in our area. We're excited about it and appreciate the so many that have been involved in this process. Thank you.

MR. McKOY: The next commenter on the list is Ivan Jackson, Jr., with Ducks Unlimited, and he's a rancher.

MR. JACKSON: First of all I'd like to say I am

very excited about -- about FutureGen coming here. Near zero emissions. As a rancher myself, we have a very -- a rather large ranch in northern Limestone County and also as the area chairman for Ducks Unlimited, Mexia Ducks Unlimited. We're also one of the largest conservation -- we are the largest conservation group in the world. Our chapter in Mexia is one of the largest in the nation, we're in the top 50 right now. There's over 13,000 chapters. We're very excited about the low emissions. I want to thank y'all for the thorough impact statement you've provided, and we're just very excited to go ahead with the project and look forward to y'all coming back to Limestone County real soon. Thank y'all.

MR. McKOY: The next commenter is Tom Wilkinson, Executive Director of the Brazos Valley Council of Governments.

MR. WILKERSON: Tom Wilkerson, Brazos Valley Council of Governments. Mark, thank you for you and your team and -- and all the contractors, we appreciate the great job that you have done.

All the COGs in Texas are designated by the governor to be the state-appointed contact for state level review and comments on projects like this. So if this were a state project we would have been charged with that process. So within the COG staff we have the ability to review documents, all 2,000 pages, for the purpose of commenting and -- and making sure that it's a benefit to our community. We thank you

for the opportunity to do that on this project and we support FutureGen coming to the Brazos Valley -- I mean The Heart of Brazos.

The -- we gave everyone the opportunity to sign in today a document of support. Instead of having 400 people come and tell you how much they support, we listed -- gave them the opportunity to sign. So I would like to read this and there is 70 plus signatures on this that will then be turned in as a part of the official record.

As a unified voice The Heart of the Brazos residents would like to express our support for the FutureGen Project and The Heart of the Brazos proposal. This comment is being submitted by Tom Wilkerson, the Brazos Valley Council Government, Post Office Drawer 4128, Bryan, Texas, 77805. By signing this document of support we are expressing our support through one submitted comment. We believe that selecting The Heart of the Brazos site will continue to benefit the project through the years due to the location, resources, industrial support and experienced workforce. FutureGen is welcome to our region. Thank you very much.

MR. McKOY: The next commenter is Kevin Benedict, Freestone County Economic Developer.

MR. BENEDICT: My name is Kevin Benedict. I'm an independent businessman from Freestone County. I also represent Freestone County in all of its economic development

endeavors.

I too would like to thank the Department of Energy and all the subcontractors not only for providing such a voluminous document but doing it in record time. As you can see, we're all excited about the project. We're excited about the possibilities of -- of -- of FutureGen coming to Texas and to do it in record time and as thoroughly as it has been done is commendable and we appreciate your hard work in that regard. Thank you.

MR. McKOY: The next commenter is Lionel J. Milberger, Citizen.

MR. MILBERGER: Okay. Can you hear me? My name is Lionel Milberger. We currently live in Wimberly, Texas, and I want to thank you for allowing me to speak to you this evening.

First of all, I want to thank the Department of Energy. I want to thank the Department of Energy for your efforts in helping to provide affordable and clean energy to the ordinary citizen that lives on the land. You're to be complimented for that effort and I think our tax money is wisely spent therein. Now, but what I would like to do is to inform you of numerous already existing emission sources that exist in the area and -- and to express a few concerns that I have.

Now first of all, we own a home also in

Robertson County, an adjoining county, and in that county there are numerous emission sources that I hope you probably already have, but if you haven't I'd like you to reconsider the large number of emissions that are present in that county and there are probably similar ones present nearby also. But, for instance, there is eight or nine emu gas plants and numerous blackhole dehydration sites. There are hundreds of sour gas wells with treating equipment at the site including the scavengers. All of this submits to the air. Now I want to -- I want to -- although I have concerns for a lot of those things other than air emissions, but the time is short, I only got five minutes so I'm going to restrict my comments to only the air emissions.

There's many compression stations, phase separators, there are miles and miles of pipeline. There is two or three lignite coal fired power plants. Some already operational in that county, one recently just permitted. There are many injection wells. Injection wells I'd like to talk about because of the sequestration but time is not going to allow me to do that. Now, there are many heaters and blowers and hundreds of chicken houses.

Now, all -- all of this equipment is emitting large emissions to the air and these emissions include acid gas and they include various other materials such as noxin and CoC, and I can appreciate and I do appreciate the fact that this

plant is said to be low in emissions, but when added to these already existing sources I want that to be considered.

Now, there are also V-tech emissions emitted at these sites and on top of that there's huge quantities of carbon dioxide. Now carbon dioxide's a big issue, it's a big issue with this plant, and there are some proper things that are being talked about to handle that carbon dioxide, but carbon dioxide is being already emitted in huge quantities in Robertson County from the gas treatment sites. About 5 to some 15 percent of that natural gas is carbon dioxide. All of that is removed and spewed to the air.

Now, and in that county there are -- there's -- there's a desire in that county for emission sources and there probably will be new and more to come as this project is done if it's done here.

Now, now I want to talk a little bit about what we have here in Texas because air emissions in my mind is a big deal partly because of the sources that I've already mentioned and yours will add to it somewhat. The T.C.E.Q. does not control emissions from oil and gas well sites. I'm glad to know there's a Railroad Commission member here. Now, T.C.E. does not control the following types of pollution. They don't control visual pollution, noise pollution, light pollution and increased traffic. Now, the T.C.E.Q. also has some shortcomings. For instance, I want to point out to the

audience, that the single most important gas in the atmosphere for humans to be viable, of course, is oxygen. Now the T.C.E.Q. does not regulate, control, or maintain the quantity of oxygen in the air. Now furthermore, T.C.E. does not control emissions to the air of other materials, specifically included is methane, Ca4. Also included is ethane, hydrogen, nitrogen, water vapors. Water vapors don't sound very bad, don't have time to talk about it today but it's important. And on top of that it's not even mentioned as far as controlling the carbon dioxide, this is T.C.E.Q.. Now, it's believed, hopefully from sources that emit large quantities of carbon dioxide, since it is heavier than air by about 1.5 times, one-and-a-half times, it can quickly move to the ground and reduce the oxygen content in the air for local residents.

Now, the Railroad Commission, the Railroad Commission, also in Texas, a very important agency, but it does not limit, prohibit, or control the emissions to the air of any material except for material that has a commercial value, and the operators determine whether it has a commercial value. So so far as air emissions are concerned, from here again Texas, I want to point out that I think we're somewhat lacking and you should take that into consideration and I would urge you to do that.

So if during planning, drilling, operating and maintaining this facility you come to me and say it is in full

compliance with all T.C.E.Q. and the Railroad Commission rules and requirements, I will not be impressed. I want to thank you for the opportunity to make this statement and if you have any questions I'll be happy to try to answer them, and I thank you very much.

MR. McKOY: Thank you. We definitely do need to consider all sources of air emissions and it is something that I think we can look into much further. The next commenter is Gary J. Mech -- Mechler, NRG-Texas.

MR. MECHLER: Thank you. I'm Gary Mechler. I'm the general manager of Limestone Power Plant. I'd just like to comment that our existing plant through the permitting, the construction, the operation of the plant over the last many years, over twenty years, that the local community here has been extremely supportive of our plant, our employees, and I'd like to thank you for that. It's been a -- I've been here at the plant for two years and I've just been very impressed with the -- with the support of the community for our plant.

As you know, NRG is going to offer to donate 400 acres of reclaimed mine property for the plant. It's an area where the lignite's already been mined, it's reclaimed. You've seen the pictures on the video, it's a beautiful site. We look forward to the plant coming there. We've also offered to -- to help the Alliance. We've been working with the Alliance to provide various services that can help, that can help the

FutureGen site come to this area, and we look forward to that.

As he earlier said, we'd like to thank the DOE, the contractors for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement. We think it's thorough, we think it's accurate, and we just look forward to the -- to the FutureGen site coming here to Jewett. Thank you very much.

MR. McKOY: According to my list all of the registered commenters have now had a chance to speak. If you registered and I failed to call your name, please let me know now. Okay. We can now hear from unregistered commenters. Are there any other comments?

Okay. I know that earlier this evening in talking with some of the people, it -- or two or three people actually brought up the issue of the handling of the mercury. Of course the proposed power plant would have an activated charcoal filter to help scrub out the mercury, but these gentlemen were wanting to know what would happen with the mercury once it's been captured. So that's an issue we probably need to look at a little further. There will need to be more planning, more design work before we can go further with it, but I thought it was a great question to ask. It was very appropriate, it's one that needs to be answered, and we definitely want to take a look further at that one.

Are there other concerns that should be heard? Okay. Are there people who would like to provide statements of

support? Not that I wouldn't be delighted to end things early, but we'd love to hear from you. Please come up. It's -- state your name for the record please.

MR. HILL: I'm Roy Hill. I'm the mayor of Fairfield, Texas, and we support the FutureGen Project. I -- I know I'm joined by our County Judge, Linda Grant who's sitting out there and I'm looking at her and she's nodding yes so that's a good thing. We support you. We think you're doing a wonderful thing. We want to see affordable and reliable power in Texas and we want to see a cleaner environment. We applaud you guys in what y'all are attempting to do. You have our full support and the only other thing is that we want Jewett to get the site.

MR. McKOY: Do we have anyone else who would like to provide a comment? Please state your name for the record.

MR. KIRGAN:: I am William P. Kirgan, Limestone Commissioner, Precinct 2. I want to say to FutureGen on behalf of my County Judge, Daniel Burkeen, we welcome you, FutureGen. And I'm that noisy guy that asked him that question about the mercury and he highly satisfied my answer -- my question. Thank you.

MR. McKOY: Do we have anyone else who would like to provide comment? Come on up and please state your name for the record.

MS. GRANT: My name is Linda Grant and I'm the Freestone County Judge. Our county is very excited about this project. We're excited about the technology. We know that our area has the resources, that we're going to have some type of energy generation in this area, and we believe that this technology will help us in the future to have the cleanest technology that we can in place. So we welcome you and look forward to having this project come to our area. Thank you.

MR. McKOY: Would anybody else like to provide comment? You know, sometimes when everyone comes up and speaks in favor of a project it's difficult for someone to come up and bring to our attention some concern or objection to the project, but this group has been a tremendously warm and welcoming group. I know that y'all would be, you know, happy to make sure that everyone has their comments heard and addressed. Would anyone else like to come up and provide comments? Okay, come on up. Again, please state your name for the record.

MS. BRENNER: I'm Juanita Brenner. I actually hail from Houston County, but I do a have service area of thirteen counties in the general area of home health, and I have Assisted Living in Mexia, Texas, so I'm speaking on behalf of Mexia, Texas, at this time. I think FutureGen is a wonderful thing that will help service the energy needs of our state and also that if it will reduce emissions from the coal I

think that is a wonderful thing. I'm thinking about all the people that have C.O.P.D., congestive heart failure, and a lot of other things that happen to people. So I'm here on behalf of the medical community because if this will help all these people live a better life, I think that we should be for it, and thank you FutureGen and the DOE.

MR. McKOY: Do we have anyone else who would like to provide comment? You know, as we've addressed, or at least considered all of the potential environmental impact at the four sites there was nothing that really ruled any site out. All of the sites really are excellent sites, but there was one thing there that we didn't address in the E.I.S. but I certainly noticed as I visited all four sites last August, and this site was the winner, the site that had the warmest reception. Y'all were fantastic. And if we had to pick a site based on the best food, you certainly won by a long shot. Is there anyone else who would like to provide comment? Is there anyone else who would like to provide a statement of support?

MS. ABERNATHY: I would.

MR. McKOY: Please state your name for the record.

MS. ABERNATHY: I'm Jan Abernathy. I live in Limestone County, I own a business in Leon County, a construction services company, a lot of you know me, and I think we're really looking forward to this. I employ a lot of

people in the area and everyone I know is for it and we're really excited. Thank y'all for coming.

MR. McKOY: Is there anyone else who would like to provide comment? Please state your name for the record.

MS. RYDER: My name is Diane Ryder. I think many of you know that I wear many hats in the area. I am chairman of our Brazos Valley Seven County Regional Workforce Development Board, and I would just like to say that over the past year we have already been working to put in place programs to train the work staff that this plant will require in the construction phase as well as in the developmental phases of it, and I just wanted you to know that the whole seven counties that I represent are very much in favor of this project and we're looking forward to it coming to our location.

MR. McKOY: Is there anyone else who would like to provide comment. Okay. Thank you for your comments and participation. Remember that you may submit comments until July 16th of this year.

This concludes the public hearing for the FutureGen Project. Let the record show that the hearing adjourned at 8:08 p.m. Thank you.

(Hearing adjourns at 8:08 p.m.)

THE STATE OF TEXAS)

COUNTY OF LEON)

I, HELEN C. WOOTEN, Court Reporter in and for the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing contains a true and correct transcription of the requested portion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement Hearing held in Buffalo, Leon County, Texas, on June 21, 2007.

WITNESS MY HAND this the _____ day of _____ 2007.

_____
HELEN C. WOOTEN, Texas CSR #5447
Expiration Date 12-31-07
3827 Travis Street
Dallas, Texas 75204
214.747.8007
(214) 747-8087 (Fax)

Errata for the Transcript of
the U.S. Department of Energy
FutureGen Public Hearing

June 19, 2007
Center for Energy and Economic Diversification
Midland, Texas

Acronyms Used
CD – Compact disc
CEED – Center for Energy and Economic Diversification
CEO – Chief Executive Officer
DOE – U.S. Department of Energy
EIS – Environmental Impact Statement
EOR – Enhanced oil recovery
GE – General Electric
ICDR – Initial Concept Design Report
IGCC – Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
NETL – National Energy Technology Laboratory
R&D – Research and development

Page 3
Line 7 – Change "CD's" to "CDs"
Page 6
Line 21 – Change "Spurger" to "Berger"
Page 7
Line 5 – Change "Potomac Hudson Tetra Tech and" to "Potomac Hudson, Tetra Tech, and"
Line 6 – Change "Spurger" to "Berger"
Page 12
Line 7 – Change "emission" to "emissions"
Page 15
Line 18 – Change "Patel" to "Battelle"
Line 24 – Change "R & D" to "R&D"
Page 17
Line 7 – Change "They" to "The"
Line 7 – Change "Patel" to "Battelle"
Page 22
Line 6 – Change "," to ";"
Line 7 – Change 1st "," to ";"
Line 8 – Change "," to ";"

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FutureGen Public Hearing
June 19, 2007
CEED, Midland, Texas
7:00 p.m.

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MR. McKOY: Welcome to the Department of Energy's public hearing for the FutureGen project. Let the record show that the hearing began on June 19th, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Center for Energy and Economic Diversification in Midland, Texas. As part of its compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the DOE has produced a Draft EIS or EIS for this project. The document analyzes the potential environmental impact at the alternative sites for the proposed project. Both the document and the comments received should help DOE in making better-informed decisions.

The Draft EIS has been distributed to persons who have previously expressed an interest in the project. If you previously requested a copy of the document and you did not receive it, please provide your mailing address to Rachel Spangenberg. Rachel, would you stand up? She's located back there. So please find her, provide to her either your address and tell her what type of document that you want or at least a form you want the document in.

Also, there are comment cards available that can be used to request a copy of the Draft EIS as well as the Final EIS. These cards are located at the DOE exhibits. The document is available in three forms.

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You can receive the document in electronic form, on a CD, or you can get a hard copy of the summary plus a CD of the entire document, or you can get a hard copy of the entire document.

We do have with us tonight a limited number of hard copies of the summary, and we have some CD's for the entire document. After the Draft EIS is distributed to the public, a public hearing is held to get -- help gather comments on the document and on the proposed Federal action.

During the informal session earlier this evening between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m., DOE and its support contractors, as well as representatives of the FutureGen Alliance and the local site proponents, the FutureGen Texas Odessa team were available to listen to your concerns and to attempt to answer your questions. We hope this session was as informative for you as it was for us.

During the formal session tonight, we will briefly present the role of DOE, and we will go over the relevant parts of NEPA compliance and the remaining schedule, and the FutureGen Alliance will briefly present an overview of the FutureGen project. Then we will begin the formal comment session.

As with the scoping meetings held in

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August, we will give priority to elected officials and their designated representatives to go first. However, DOE realized that during the scoping meetings, the general public had to wait a long time before having an opportunity to speak. This time, with the assistance and cooperation of elected officials, we hope to give the general public an opportunity to speak sooner this evening. We hope that all of you can stay for the entire oral comment session.

For those who cannot stay and for those like me who don't feel comfortable speaking in front of a large audience, we do have a separate comment station that's located across the lobby area on the other side. There will be a DOE person there to listen to your comment and a court reporter to make a transcript. However, we do prefer that you use the formal session here to provide oral comments.

Written comments are given equal weight with oral comments, and written comments tend to be crafted more carefully and can be written at your convenience. You may provide written comments instead of or in addition to oral comments. Again, there are comment cards available at the DOE exhibits. You fill out the cards and submit them tonight or any time before the close of the comment period on July 16th. You can

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also provide comments by e-mail, by regular mail -- have those postmarked by July 16th -- by faxes, by voice mail and telephone calls, as indicated on the literature available at the DOE exhibits.

On tonight's agenda, we will have a presentation of DOE's role in the project. That presentation will be provided by Tom Sarkus with the Department of Energy NETL Pittsburgh office. We will be given an overview of the project by Jerry Oliver, with

the FutureGen Alliance, and I will provide an overview of the relevant NEPA compliance issues at this point in the process. And after that, we hope to get comments from you, the public.

Visiting with us tonight we have Michael Williams from the Railroad Commission. He is the Railroad Commissioner. Michael, would you please stand?

(Applause)

MR. McKOY: We have Ricky Wright, representing Congressman Michael Conaway.

(Applause)

MR. McKOY: Denise Perkins, representing State Senator Seliger.

(Applause)

MR. McKOY: We have Royce Bodiford, representing Odessa City Council District 3 and Mayor of

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the City of Odessa. And we have Mike George, president of the Odessa Chamber of Commerce.

(Applause)

MR. McKOY: Representing DOE, we have Tom Sarkus, again, from the DOE office in Pittsburgh. Tom is up here.

(Applause)

MR. McKOY: Tom is the project director for FutureGen. He is with the office of Coal Power R&D. We have Otis Mills, who is our media relations expert seated right here. We have Jeff Hoffman with DOE in Pittsburgh. Jeff is a systems engineer with the project. We have Bill Gwilliam, who is a geologist with DOE recently assigned to help us with the project. And of course we have me, Mark McKoy, with DOE from the Morgantown office. I am the environmental manager in DOE, NEPA document manager for FutureGen.

(Applause)

MR. McKOY: The Draft EIS was prepared by a team representing Potomac Hudson Engineering, Tetra Tech, and Lewis Spurger. We have with us tonight Fred Kerry, the president of PHE, Potomac Hudson Engineering.

(Applause)

MR. McKOY: And the person who has been responsible for actually putting the document together

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and getting it all published and ready for us to read and review is Debra Walker. Debra, would you --

(Applause)

MR. McKOY: And I would like for all of the other members of the Potomac Hudson Tetra Tech and Lewis Spurger team that has worked so hard on the document to stand for just a moment.

(Applause)

MR. McKOY: Now, it's time for a few presentations to provide you with some background information regarding the project. Here is Tom Sarkus with DOE on the DOE role in the project.

MR. SARKUS: Good evening, and thank you for coming. This is a nighttime photo of Tampa

Electric's integrated gasification combined cycle. We use the acronym IGCC a lot. And that is one of two coal-based IGCC plants that are currently operating in the United States. It's also the top dispatch or the number one unit, if you will, in Tampa Electric's generating system, and it's been operating commercially for over ten years. Now, with operating plants -- operating IGCC plants having designs that are, in most cases, over ten years old, it's time to build upon the lessons we learned on those units and to bring about the next generation of coal-based electric generating

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technologies.

When Tampa and the other IGCC unit at Wabash River were designed in the early 1990's, key external drivers were sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions relevant, at that time, to acid rain controls. We also had to focus on the technical challenge of combining and effectively integrating a gas fire with a combined cycle. These are plants that have many pieces. And while no one of those pieces is necessarily difficult to build or operate, when you add them all together, you have a challenge in terms of integrating them so that they all work together well.

Today, we have additional drivers such as mercury and CO2, and the latter is relevant to climate change. These drivers are going to require us to add even additional pieces or processes into the coal-based power plants of tomorrow. You probably have heard about FutureGen mostly in a context of a technology-based mitigation strategy for addressing climate change. That is, FutureGen will produce and separate hydrogen and carbon dioxide using the hydrogen to produce electric power and storing, we use the term -- the technical word "sequestering" but it really means storing the CO2 in deep saline aquifers. This slide pairs major CO2 sources with major CO2 storage reservoirs in North

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America. I'm often asked how much CO2 can these formations hold?

Well, assuming that we produced 3.8 gigatons of CO2 annually, we have 3,800 gigatons of storage capacity as shown on this slide. That would be about a thousand years of CO2 production at current rates. That should be more than enough CO2 storage capacity, given that the United States has a 250-year supply of coal.

FutureGen is currently estimated to cost $1.757 billion and that includes approximately $1.5 billion to design and build the plant and the geologic storage facilities, plus another $300 million to operate those facilities for a three-year period. We also estimate that during that three-year period, FutureGen will generate about $300 million in electricity sales or revenues, which will be used largely to offset the costs of operation.

FutureGen is being implemented through a

cooperative agreement with the DOE and the FutureGen Industrial Alliance. The Alliance consists currently of 12 coal mining and coal-based electric power companies. Their corporate logos are shown here.

The cooperative agreement is structured around six budget periods, which are shown on this schedule. We recently transitioned from what we call budget period zero, which is project structuring and conceptual design, into budget period one, preliminary design. And that's where the project stands right now.

Over the past year, a lot of work is centered on site selection and on conceptual design of both the power plant and the sequestration or the storage field. Over the next year, some focus is going to shift towards selecting technology or equipment suppliers for major parts of the project.

Design will continue into the Spring of 2009 and construction will run through 2011, followed by a period of shake-down and start-up. We expect to begin commercial operations of the first FutureGen plant by the end of 2012. DOE and the FutureGen Alliance are splitting the project costs, 74 percent by DOE and 26 percent by the Alliance. As for international participation, foreign companies may join the Alliance as equal members, while foreign government contributions are counted on the DOE or the government side of the project ledger. We hope to secure at least $80 million from foreign governments at a rate of $10 million each. And so far, four countries have announced an intention to join, and those being India, South Korea, China, and Japan. We're working on developing an international agreement to facilitate that.

So here is the summary of the project costs. Again, you will hear different numbers. The plant is going to cost $1.5 billion to design and build, a little bit more to operate it for an operating period.

That ends my summary presentation. Here is my contact information. Again, thank you for coming.

Mark?

MR. McKOY: Thanks, Tom. The next presentation is by Jerry Oliver. He's vice president of the FutureGen Alliance, and Jerry will give us an overview of the project.

MR. OLIVER: Thank you, very much. Let me make sure I use this thing right. Good evening, folks and I really appreciate the opportunity to be here. I will try not to duplicate anything that Tom has said, but I do have some similar slides. I was here last August and you will see some of the same material, but I will update it.

And you know, it's been nine months. It feels like it's been more like a few weeks, but it's amazing how fast time goes by. And we have accomplished a lot but when I say we, it really means the FutureGen Texas group. It means the Odessa team. It means the

Department of Energy, and it means the Alliance, the
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Alliance partners. Without everybody working together, we would not both be here tonight and we clearly would not have done all the work that's been done to this point.

Let's see. Here we go. What I will do is give you a quick background on the project. It is intended to be the world's first near zero emission coal fueled power plant. We will capture 90 percent of the carbon -- of the CO2 we produce, and then we will put about a million tons of that underground. We should produce more. We will produce more, but we will put a million tons underground out of that into a deep saline geologic formation, and I will talk about that a little more.

What we are going to -- the project itself is really our research platform and a living laboratory, a place to really take a commercial scale and test technology that actually will make coal more environmentally benign and, we believe, commercially valuable. And it is a global, public, and private partnership, and I will go into that in more depth. And we weren't going to do this without everybody's involvement, because this project is truly building a first-of-a-kind very unique and complex plant that will be used around the globe if we do it right, but that
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means we really have to involve the community in that.

We have some very clear objectives in the project. We are designing, we will build and operate the near zero emissions plant. We are going to capture and sequester more than a million tons a year of CO2. We are going to have very low levels of NOx and SOx and particulate matter and mercury, and will be online in 2012. We are also going to move technology forward beyond that point as far as you can, because the cleaner you can get coal, the more commercially viable what you are doing is, the more it will be used around the globe. And that really means we need to get very broad involvement. So we're not doing this in any way to keep technology. The Alliance is actually technology, as we go forward, that will be used by the globe.

Why do we need this? It's a unique opportunity to provide carbon sequestration in deep formations. It gives us an ability to really, at a large scale, understand the technical and the economic implications of putting CO2 underground. EOR to me is putting it underground, but it's a very small sliver of the amount of CO2 that's available in the world to go underground. So the need is to prove that you can actually store it for long-term and understand the implications of that. We also will use the project to
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build both a legal and a regulatory framework to allow what we are doing to be used both in the US and globally. It gives us a real unique opportunity to

advance IGCC technology. We are not building a commercial plant, building a research platform. We are actually able to allow the vendors and the builders of technology to push their technology without worrying about the performance guarantees that they normally face. It gives us the chance to take ideas that the DOE has been testing for years and actually bring them forward into an integrated facility.

There isn't a single IGCC plant out there right now that actually combines with carbon capture sequestration. This project will do that. We are actually leading any other activity in this regard, and I think one of the reasons is it's pretty hard to come up with a way to finance a project like this without actually proving it once. So what we're doing will actually put in the world a way to understand both the science behind it and also something that others can understand the risks with.

And by having the international participation we do, the project will have the ability to move around the globe. One of the things that was discussed in the interview this afternoon was will

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countries like China accept this? Well, first of all, China is a partner in this. And I do believe that everybody understands the implications of having bad air. And if you can do things about it, which this project will help do, then in fact, it will be used around the globe.

Not to belabor what Tom did, we have 12 companies that are involved in FutureGen. It is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) so all the companies donate to the Alliance. There is no -- they get nothing out of it, other than moving technology and having an opportunity to learn as we go forward. The same for the DOE. The United States is involved through the Department of Energy. And as Tom said, we are actually -- they are actually looking at adding other countries to their group of folks involved in this.

We have some great partners. And we have Patel, who is leading subsurface work and who is actually here with quite a number of people here tonight. They also are our general management contractor and they're involved with dealing with the DOE and the public and the rest so that they provide an awful lot of support to this project, and they're one of the leading R & D organizations in the United States.

We have engaged, in every aspect of this,

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world class experts and will continue to do that. Because when you're trying to push technology, you really need to get the best ideas that exist, both not only in the US, but in the globe and we are doing that.

And lastly, we have brought on the Washington Group as our engineering and design contractor, and they have started to take all the work that we have done in the past and bring that forward,

which I will talk about in a minute on the surface plant.

The project will be designed (inaudible) and will also be set up to run test quantities of lignite and other things that others would like to bring in from other parts of the globe or other types of coal. We are going to push gasification technology. We are going to push the hydrogen turbine. I mean, one of the things that makes this project unique is we really are going to run on hydrogen with the nitrogen deluant, but straight hydrogen, and there is a lot of other aspects to make this thing work the way that we are talking about that deals with gas handling and material handling that we will push. So every aspect of this project will be pushed as we go forward.

We are going to integrate CO2 capture at a scale that will be commercially relevant. And we are

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going to create an ability to take slip streams off the plant to actually continue to develop science out of the facilities as it goes forward.

I don't want to add a lot of what Tom already said about sequestration except to point out that we are doing some really front-end forward-thinking work on modeling. They work that Patel is doing on leading on modeling underground along with what's been done by BEG and others is truly advancing the science of what's going to happen and getting us better prepared for the phase of actually putting CO2 underground.

And to add to Tom's comment, he said there is around 3,800 gigatons of storage in the United States. Following that same thing, there is 11,000 gigatons of storage around the globe. So there is plenty of room to put all the CO2 for the next thousand years around the globe, if we can actually prove that what we are doing makes sense.

What have we done since we last saw y'all? We finished a very broad evaluation of a lot of different ways to build a facility that can do this and came up with a lot of alternative power plant designs, integrated with CO2 sequestration, and costed those out. We came down to three that went into the documents that have recently been published by the ICDR and are partly

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the basis of the EIS.

We made sure that what we did was fuel flexible. And then we brought on Washington Group to actually take what we have done in the last year and bring it down to a single plant design. And right now, we are going out into the marketplace just to find people to do the gasification part of the plant, the gas turbine and the rest. So we're actually moving now to the next step to actually build the facility.

I won't -- Tom already covered the cost structure. The $1.5 billion is essentially the same number he had, without taking into account the coal that will be used during the plant's life and that is

essentially the same schedule. It does take into account some overlap in phases, but the key to the schedule is that in 2009, we will break ground and in 2012, we will start the plant. So that hasn't changed since we were together in August and essentially, the project is on track in that regard.

What are we doing now? We are finishing preliminary design work, both surface and subsurface. We are doing due diligence on the technologies that could possibly fit into this and starting to work with the potential vendors and equipment system providers in that regard. We are developing specifications that fit

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to while to build an integrated facility that meet the goals that you saw at the front. We are finishing a fairly extensive due diligence effort that a lot of you have been involved in over the last year. And over the next few months, we will finalize offers on the four sites, and we are supporting DOE's efforts in the EIS in both this public hearing and in all aspects of the EIS efforts.

On Friday last week, we put out our guidance for the best and final offers. We're asking the sites to get that back to us by August 1st. Assuming that we get the Record of Decision on the four sites at the end of October as currently planned, we will announce the site in November. So that's currently the schedule for what we're doing. And I think that's the last slide.

So to get to the point we're at, we couldn't have done it without all the support we've had, and the project is moving forward, again fast and it's essentially on track, and I'm really glad to be back here and get a chance to talk to y'all. Thank you.

MR. McKOY: Thanks, Jerry, for that update. As Jerry indicated, they are now moving, transitioning from the conceptual design phase to the preliminary design phase, and of course that is all work

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that they can undertake before we complete the NEPA process. I know I gave all of you an overview of the NEPA process if you attended the scoping meetings, but I realize there may be some people who did not attend those meets, so I will go over a few of the key points again.

NEPA stands for the National Environmental Policy Act. It is a Federal law. It became effective January 1st, 1970, and it applies to all Federal agencies. It does not apply to state agencies or local government agencies. It does not apply to the private sector, only to Federal agencies. It has often been called the national charter for protection of the environment, because it is the first leg that broadly addresses protection of the environment.

What it requires is that there be consideration for environmental impact in Federal decision-making. The NEPA mandate is that environmental

information must be available to public officials and citizens before Federal decisions are made and before Federal actions are taken. The document must contain high-quality information. It should be based on scientific analyses. The analyses should be accurate, and there is a requirement that Federal agencies, at least, having expertise, would review the document and

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provide comment. We are also required to put the document out to other governmental agencies, state agencies, local agencies, and give them an opportunity to comment on the document.

And of course, most importantly, we're required to put the document out to the public so that you can review it and provide your comment and your input into the process. And that's why we're here at this public hearing tonight. We are very interested in getting your comments to learn about your concerns, particularly if you are a person or an organization who is affected or has a particular special interest in the project.

You can give comments on the adequacy of the EIS, on the merits of the alternatives, and on the proposed Federal action, particularly relative to the environmental impacts.

At this point, we are in the middle of the process. That is, we have prepared a draft document, we have now put that out for the public to review and comment on. We will take the comments that we receive and use those comments to prepare the Final EIS and then distribute the Final EIS to the public. No sooner than 30 days after we distribute the document to the public, the Department of Energy can issue a Record of Decision.

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DOE has some particular responsibilities at the point in the process. They must consider public comments, both individually and collectively.

DOE must respond to public comments in the Final EIS in one of the following ways. We can modify the alternatives, evaluate alternatives not previously given serious consideration, we can supplement, improve, or modify the analyses, and we can make factual corrections. Otherwise, we must explain why comments do not warrant further agency response.

We will attach all the substantive comments to the Final EIS. Right now, as I said, we are halfway through the process, so we are at the public hearing stage, indicated there for June of '07. We would like to get the Final EIS out to the public in September of this year and that would allow us to get to a Record of Decision, hopefully, in October of this year.

DOE does, in fact, want your participation. We take very seriously our obligation to get your comments, to learn about your concerns regarding the project. Please send your comments to me, the NEPA document manager at mail stop N03, P. O. Box

880, Morgantown, West Virginia, 26507-0880. You can e-mail comments to me at FutureGen.eis@netl.doe.gov.

And keep in mind the comment period closes July 16th, 2007.

Okay. It's time to begin the formal comment period when the public is invited to provide oral comments with the adequacy of the EIS, the merits of the alternatives and the proposed Federal action. For those of you providing oral comments, we ask that you keep your comments to within a five-minute timeframe. This allows us to make sure everyone has equal opportunity to provide comments. You may speak a second time after everyone has a first chance to speak.

It is important to make your views known, either now in oral statements or in writing. Again, we do have a comment card that you can use. You can write your comments on the card, put your name and address on here, and you can indicate what form you would like the final EIS in, whether in hard copy or CD summary. If you would like a copy of the Draft EIS that we have just put out, just write that in up here and we will try to get that to you also.

You can fill these out. You can hand them in tonight. You can put a stamp on them and mail them to me later. Just have it postmarked before July 16th, please. We will consider late comments to the extent that we can. Again, you can send your comments in by

any other means, by regular mail, write a conventional letter, write an e-mail. Any of those approaches will work. Just keep in mind the comment period officially closes July 16th.

Again, all comments will be considered equally, as we continue with the development up to the Final EIS. And just one more time to go over the rules for the oral comment session, five minutes per speaker, please. Two opportunities to speak, if time allows; that is, if you want to come up a second time, we will try to accommodate that. Government officials and pre-registered speakers go first.

And a transcript is being made. We have a transcriptionist so when you come up, state your name, maybe spell out your name for the transcriptionist, make sure that she can get that name down correctly. Or alternatively, you can use the comment cards, if you do not wish to speak in front of the audience.

Hopefully, someone can bring me the list of people who signed up. The first commentor that I have here is Scott LaGrone.

MR. SCOTT LaGRONE: My name is Scott LaGrone, and I have to say I was raised in the Permian Basin. I went through high school at Odessa High School. I spent the last 50 years in Austin, Texas.

But I wanted to take this opportunity to talk about the FutureGen proposal from my perspective. I was not aware

of some of the information I heard tonight. I will make a comment on that in a moment.

I'm currently a member of -- Chairman Williams is chairman of our Clean Coal Technology Council. I was appointed by Governor Rick Perry in 2004. I have served six years on the Lower Colorado River Authority Board of Directors and involved with 3,000 megawatts of power generation during that time period, as well as coal generation. I do appreciate the chairman's efforts to promote the FutureGen proposal for the State of Texas.

I can't tell you how important it is that with find some alternative fuels besides natural gas for our state to use in the generation of electricity, and certainly, FutureGen is a real hopeful research area. I spent 35 years in the research area of energy environment, and so I started with some of the work in the (inaudible) process which then became the Texaco process, which is the now the GE process, which is what's now called integrated gasification combined cycle.

The NEPA process, which you heard so much about, requires not only the classical biological and

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physical examination, but it also requires examination of the human impacts on the population on the economy. And I think that these gentlemen are more than qualified to have looked into the biological and physics of the emissions, et cetera. But what I would like to comment on very quickly is the human and societal considerations for the Permian Basin. My belief is that the local and national economic factors are very important in this specific EIS, because of the nature of what it can achieve for our nation and for our state.

In summary, and you should know, I submitted a 10-page document that has more than you ever want to know about each of these points, so I will just give you the summary points and stick within my five minutes. I believe FutureGen is a perfect research tool for the West Texas location and will meet the societal and economic impact requirements of the NEPA act. I believe that this is because leaders in this region and the general population are energy aware and would welcome such a facility and the economic contribution it will bring.

The IGCC process is a chemical process. It's not a conventional coal operation. It requires the work force with the chemical plant experience where you need chemical plant experience to operate it, not

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(inaudible) coal experience. We're veterans in the Permian Basin where we have years and years of experience in personnel in operating the chemical and natural gas facilities. I think that is a very important point when you start evaluating this location against other locations in the country.

From my perspective, at least, having been

raised here, environmentally, it is an excellent location for such a facility with a history and acceptance by the population of the importance of energy production for our nation.

Another valuable point is rail by coal, especially western coal, is easily available and at a reasonable cost to this location. I understand you are going to use other coals as well in this research facility, but certainly, western coal is -- a line runs just north of here and provides all Central Texas coal plants with their western coal.

I heard the part about the deep saline injection, and I've just got to add, I sure hope one of the slip streams of the CO2 off of this facility is used to produce more oil for this nation. If there ever was a case where it's needed, we are currently importing it from the Four Corners area up in Farmington, New Mexico, via pipeline. And what better way than to take more

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than just a slip stream of this million tons a year, but let's inject it into our water-flooded oil fields and produce more oil for our nation.

Since IGCC plants are chemical plants, they work best when running at full load capacity or at least constant load, not when they try to fall the load like natural gas plants do. The electric we get in this area can more than accommodate the 275 megawatts this plant is going to be, so there is no question about operational feasibility of the plant. I'm sure all of this is well understood by the scientists and technologists who have been involved in this but I came into this kind of late, I must admit.

The Texas grid not only wants 275 megawatts, we have a need for 20 or 30,000 megawatts of power in the next 20 years in this state and we are desperate. And so this technology needs to move as fast as it can so that we can get some real-sized plants, 1,000 megawatts as opposed to 275 megawatts, and get them under way and sequester the CO2 at the same time.

I guess in summary, I just have to say that I believe this project here in the Permian Basin is a win-win for DOE and its research goals, promoting national energy independence through new coal technology. I believe it's a win-win for the Permian

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Basin economy with its trained work force and positive attitude about energy development. I think it's a win-win in helping Texas reach its current and future needs for electrical power, because we really are in need in the next ten years, and I think if we will take this slip stream of CO2 and put it down in the ground, I think it's a win-win in energy independence for more domestic crude production.

And again, thank you very much for your time and patience. I hope I stuck with my five minutes, and I will be happy to answer any questions, if it's appropriate.

MR. McKOY: The next speaker is Michael Williams, the Railroad Commissioner.

MR. MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Mark, thank you. Understanding the admonition to all of us elected officials to be short and recognizing the proverb that says, "Blessed is he with little to say and refrains from saying it," I will be short. I want to do a couple of things. First of all, to so I thank you, Jerry, to folks from the Alliance for the way that you worked with us and the way you have allowed us to make the best presentation that we could have.

And second, obviously, it's to DOE for the same and I want to do the same thing to Hoxie, to you

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and your group here locally for doing what you could on behalf of West Texas. It is a pleasure for me as a son of Midland and Odessa to have a chance to come back home and then to also welcome all of you here, from myself and from Governor Rick Perry for all the work that you have done.

And as it specifically relates, Mark, to the EIS, let me do this from the State of Texas. We appreciate the thoroughness, the accuracy of the work that you did, and we appreciate the fact that Gretchen, I think we left the scoping meeting and I said that I looked forward to you coming back to Texas in November, so let me leave this podium the way I left it the last time. I look forward to you coming back to Texas in November, because in Texas, in November, one of those two sites will be the site that you select. As I tell folks, right now because officially on behalf of both of them, I am a parent with two kids. I want both my kids to succeed and look forward to one of them succeeding. Thank you.

MR. McKOY: Thank you, Michael Williams. The next speaker is Ricky Wright, representing Congressman Michael Conaway.

MR. RICKY WRIGHT: I think it's a little unfair to make me follow a first-class act like Michael,

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not much I can add to that. But on behalf of Congressman Conaway, he regrets the fact he can't be here tonight. He sent a quick statement, basically to address the good folks from the DOE and welcome you to West Texas.

As it begins, "Welcome to Odessa, Texas, and the Permian Basin. I am disappointed I could not be here to join you today for this very important first step in making FutureGen a reality. I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to brag on the excellent efforts of the Odessa community and the efforts they have put in bringing FutureGen to the Permian Basin.

"The Permian Basin has long been a leader in energy production in research, both traditional and alternatives forms of energy. Generally known for oil and gas, the community has put together a tremendous effort in looking toward the future with the efforts to

bring FutureGen to West Texas. The statement of having a traditional oil and gas center push for an alternative energy source is a testament to the dedication of this community to improve our nation's energy security and lead us into an independent energy source.

"In regard to the environmental concerns of FutureGen, I am confident that the Penwell-Odessa site has the most positive impact on the environment.

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In addition to natural advantages of the remoteness of the site, FutureGen will receive support from the area's years of expertise in handling CO2 sequestering and enhanced oil recovery. This provides the infrastructure to continue such efforts and will also help in assuring that CO2 is always handled in an environmentally-sensitive manner.

In addition, the FutureGen committee and the supporting communities have addressed all the issues in relation to the EIS, including concerns regarding the availability of water to the site.

Again, thank you for your efforts in making the FutureGen a reality. I continue to believe that the Penwell-Odessa site is far the best site for energy production." No offense there, Michael.

"And I hope you will enjoy some of West Texas' fine hospitality during your stay and please call on me or my office if there is anything or any assistance I can be. Sincerely, Michael Conaway, US Congressman." Thank you.

MR. McKOY: We have certainly been enjoying the West Texas hospitality.

MR. RICKY WRIGHT: We've got some more.

MR. McKOY: The next commentor is Denise Perkins representing State Senator Seliger.

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MS. DENISE PERKINS: I'm Denise Perkins, and I'm with Senator Seliger's office and he could not be here tonight, but he sends this comment. He says, "Texas is completely committed to the FutureGen project. It has been one of my legislative priorities in the Senate. I believe the Permian Basin is the best location for the project, because of its unique ability to sequester the CO2 and represent a future of environmentally sensitive projects."

Thank you.

MR. McKOY: Okay. I'm not sure about the next person. Mike George, president of the Odessa Chamber of Commerce. Is Mike intending to comment?

MR. MICHAEL GEORGE: I didn't officially sign up. I will be more than happy to speak.

I'm Mike George, G-E-O-R-G-E. I'm president and CEO of the Odessa Chamber of Commerce. I would just like to say that we would concur that the Odessa-Penwell site, in our opinion, is the best place for this project, because all of the components of FutureGen, including the chemistry and the gas plant construction, the handling, the CO2, all the components

that make up the FutureGen project are all layered together here in one place where we have been doing all of those components individually for decades. And I don't think you will find that anywhere else in the country.

And we've welcomed FutureGen to Odessa and we think we have the work force that can handle it and the community is certainly very supportive, the entire region. So we welcome it. Thank you.

MR. McKOY: I apologize for the confusion on the list. The next speaker is -- and again, excuse me, I'm having a hard time reading this. It's John Boswell.

MR. BOSWELL: That would be me.

MR. McKOY: With -- I can't make out the writing.

MR. BOSWELL: Darrell McDonald Realtors from Midland. Thank you. I should have looked at the names of the people before me before I signed up on the list following Michael Williams and everybody. Just speaking as a citizen of Midland is what I wanted to do. I did not know there was a public meeting from 4 to 6 or I would have been here earlier. But I did want to comment that I have, in my world of real estate, been talking to people around Midland, and as much as we might have a rivalry on football, Midland is totally behind FutureGen coming to West Texas. And looking at the sites that the DOE has chosen, it just makes complete and total sense to come here and it's easy to be partial. We live here, we want the business, et cetera. But when you have an international airport, when you have La Entrada coming in, we have existing lines of communications with Mexico and China, as Midland and Odessa have sister cities in these countries, there is so much going on here.

We've been building up just for our own sake, let alone for the fact that we would like to have FutureGen come here, but Midland and Odessa both cities are on an upsurge, the likes of which neither has seen for many years. And we're used to booms and busts. The oil business has seen it all over and again. But now more than ever, Midland and Odessa are both prepared beyond belief.

We have people moving here from across the nation on a daily basis. I manage 200 rental units and I get calls and e-mails every day of people looking for a place to come to work for every occupation you can think of, not just coming here to work for the oil industry, and people transferring here from Dallas, which is (inaudible), but it's like you're coming here from Dallas? Colorado, Utah, Chicago, everywhere. I have not heard one negative thing. I can't think of one negative thing.

Midland-Odessa is all about energy. We

have wind turbine farms in Big Spring and McCamey. We have the nuclear plant going in up at Andrews. We have this. We have oil and gas. You know, Stephanie Sparkman has been talking about how Permian Basin is the Energy Basin. And that's the absolute truth.

We are about as international as a little town can get and people are going to want to come to FutureGen from all over the world to see it, be a part of it, bring it to their country. And how are they going to be able to do that from some of the other locations? How are they going to be able to reach them? Where are they going to stay? Where are they going to go eat?

Some of the other cities are pretty small. Jewett is around larger cities and larger facilities, but Eastern Texas, in my opinion, is becoming highly congested. And that's why they're wanting to do a trans-Texas corridor and do this massive eight-lane freeway going north and south. And they're overdoing what they need to do, in my opinion, whereas here in Midland-Odessa, you've got the interstate, pow, you're right on the site. You've got airports ten minutes away. It's so easy here.

And just speaking as a public person from

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the City of Midland, I've had some tough acts to follow here tonight, but Midland has your full support and you know, I'm anxious to see how this all works about and would like to see it come here. So that's all I was going to say.

MR. McKOY: The next commentor is Gil Van Deventer, Trident Environmental.

MR. GIL VAN DEVENTER: Thank you. That was very well stated. He stole some of my thunder, but I mean, we have the same thoughts there. My name is Gil Van Deventer. I'm a hydrogeologist with Trident Environmental, and we are a local environmental consulting company.

Other than being a resident in this great area of West Texas for the past 20 years -- I wasn't born here, got here quick as I could -- but I come here as an unbiased citizen. I have no financial interest in FutureGen. By that, I mean I'm not being paid by anyone to be here and speak my mind.

First of all, I'd like to say that I am very supportive of the Odessa site being chosen as the site for FutureGen. I read the Draft EIS in its entirety and I don't foresee any adverse significant impacts to the resources of the proposed site, other than improving of the chosen area.

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In particular, it will be a very beneficial effect to the division a resources, land use, social, economics, environmental, justice, community services, and utility infrastructure. I believe that the Odessa site is ideally located for environmental impact to environmental and commercial resources and

human health issues.

And each of the remaining sites, Texas and Illinois, I'm sure they're going to have some significant impacts or difficult obstacles to overcome if chosen, and -- however, I think it will be well within our ability, especially here, to mitigate these impacts and reduce or eliminate their effects.

In fact, I don't think that's a bad thing to have, you know, some of these challenges, because for FutureGen to be a success, we need to meet these challenges by mitigating the various impacts so that we can learn from them and then transfer this technology to future FutureGens. And so by then, I'm very confident that the Odessa site will serve as the best model for a successful venture of this technology.

Permian Basin has long proven its ability to implement and advance innovative technology, because it has a great resource of educated and friendly people in the industry and accommodating business, governmental

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and residential atmosphere, well established and respected colleges and universities, and the existing utility and transportation corridors and other strategic qualities. It is these virtues that have made this area a successful source for distinguished individuals, including those in high public office in Washington. You might know of a few and elsewhere, and who are dividing our country on the right path forward and this is, you know, one of those right paths forward.

Meeting challenges, that's commonplace in the Permian Basin. I have been for several decades since the beginning of the oil and gas industry. Our confidence in that regard is why we're becoming a center of energy diversification. Like John said, I mean, that includes the wind and solar energy, nuclear energy, and hopefully soon, near zero emission coal-fired power generation. Thank you.

MR. McKOY: Okay. According to my list, all of the registered commentors have now had a chance to speak. If you registered and I failed to call your name, please let me know now. At this point, I would like to open it up to unregistered commentors who would like to come up and speak for the first time. Please state your name for the record.

MR. WALDEN: Hello. I'm Steven Walden,

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and I'm here to represent the FutureGen Texas team. And primarily, what I'm trying to do is let you know that a lot of work has gone into this project, and I'm here primarily to congratulate the DOE and their contractors. They have done a marvelous job, and my tasks for the FutureGen Texas team, my role has been to oversee the environmental accumulation of the information and pass it on to them.

We sent them a mountain. They have melted and synthesized it and done all the risk analysis and have done a spectacular job of putting it together. I

commend you on this effort. It's Herculean. Good job. And unlike Jerry Oliver who was here earlier, he said he thought this time had passed fast. To me, it seems like we have been working on this since the Eisenhower administration. Good job, good job.

MR. McKOY: Do we have another person who would like to provide oral comment? Please keep in mind that it's not easy to come up and speak -- if you have concerns about the project or if you're not in favor of the project, it's particularly hard to do, following a number of commentors who have all been in favor of the project. But trust me, DOE really does want to hear from people who have concerns about the project and maybe even do not want the project. So I'm sure all of

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us will make people feel very comfortable sharing their comments, regardless of what their comments are. So again, I would like to encourage people, if you have concerns about the project, maybe you don't even want the project here, please don't hesitate to come up and speak and provide oral comment. We need to hear those comments, too. Alternatively, you can write those comments down and submit those comments to us.

On the other hand, we love to hear comments in support of the project. I have already received probably over 80 letters from the State of Texas. All of them have been in support of the project. There have been a few letters that have raised a few particular issues and we will look into those, but that's a lot of letters that support and most of them have come from the Odessa area.

So you all in Odessa -- you all in Odessa have shown a tremendous amount of support for the project.

MR. RICKY WRIGHT: I will add a little bit there, if you don't mind. I really didn't want to do this, but Mike and I have traveled this district. And as most of you know, District 11 stretches from Loving County, which is just west of here a hundred or million miles, wherever that is, we have been there several

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times, and it runs all the way over to Comanche County, which is where I'm from.

And as we have traveled, we have not heard one comment from any area within our district that is not for FutureGen and the project coming to Texas. And our district in Odessa has done a great job. Folks from my hometown, small communities like Goldthwaite and San Saba have even made comments, "Are you guys going to get this project? We think it's great. We'd love to see it happen. Texas needs it. We think Odessa is the place to put it." They believe in the Permian Basin and they believe in its ability to do things with energy.

So just as a side comment, Odessa is doing a great job. So is Midland and the Permian Basin as a whole, Monahans, Andrews, Big Lake, and so forth, they're all behind it. But there are even parts of

Texas that probably won't see it unless they come out here and visit, and they're for it. So you have got a strong support in Texas. And Michael, your oldest son in Texas wants it out here.

MR. McKOY: Thank you, Ricky Wright. Do we have anyone else who would like to provide comments?

MR. BOSWELL: I'm John Boswell. I did think of one other thing that I wanted to comment. I may have touched on this, but I want to hit it again.

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It's a real big thing for West Texas to hear something big coming and then it not happen. We've had, you know, various companies rumored to come to Midland, you know, oil companies and whatnot, doesn't happen. Walt Disney was going to have a Disney World here. Of course, that didn't happen. We had a Disney store for a little while.

You know, Midland and Odessa have heard the whole gambit of things coming here, yes, no, maybe so. This room is not nearly as full as it ought to be with the people who are in support of this. And they are skeptical, and with good reason. But they're all in favor of it, and I guarantee if this site was chosen, the Odessa site were chosen, you'd see support coming out of the woodwork. You would see people who have left Texas for jobs coming back to Texas just to, you know, be a part of it, because it's going -- the synergy that this is going to create, this is a one-time plant.

We're going to get it off the ground. We are going to learn a lot from it. But the growth potential from all of this, you know, the university is going to grow from this. Andrews, the surrounding communities there, the airport, the rail system, that's going to create La Entrada's real system going north to Denver and Colorado. The ramifications of it are

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monumental.

And I have seen the big picture and I have tried to communicate it to a lot of people and they're all like yeah, that's all good and great, go get it, John. And you know, I'm the one who's beating the drum and I'm doing the best I can. But I've been to Austin. I've met, you know, Mr. Seliger and many others and you know, we can only do so much. But you definitely have the support of Midland, and I just wanted to reiterate that one time.

MR. McKOY: Thank you, John Boswell. See, I even get a second chance to pronounce names correctly. And as you have all learned, sometimes I need a third.

Okay. Is there anyone else who would like to provide oral comment? It's not that bad to come up. Trust me. If I can get up here and talk, you can come up and provide comments, too. We have plenty of time.

MS. BEATRICE HEARD: Can someone say something from here?

MR. McKOY: You need to come here and speak to make sure everyone can hear you and the

transcriptionist can hear you. You need to come up here and state your name.

MS. BEATRICE HEARD: My name is Beatrice Heard, and I am a Midlander. And when they had the last

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meeting, I came to the meeting and I work for MISD and I work for -- work with a man, he is a retired engineer. And he retired and became certified as a teacher and I was telling him, I said you know, I'm kind of interested in finding out more about FutureGen. And so he said, well, why don't you go to the meeting? So I said, oh, okay. So he finally talked me into it and when I drove up, I sat in my car for a few minutes. I said, oh God, I say, give me the strength, I said. I'm going in here with all these sorehead men. I said there will not be women there. I said first thing they're going to know why I'm out here. So I said, okay, God, you've got to give me the strength.

So I walked in and this pleasant lady was standing at the door, and I run up to her and I said, "Oh, thank God you're here." And so she said, "Why?" And I said, "I just thought I was going to be the only woman here." And so she said, "Come on in, come in here." So I came and she was very nice and the reception was very nice. And I picked up some information and everything and I've been keeping up with it.

As a matter of fact, I have every article on FutureGen I have cut out of the paper, trying to keep up with what's going on. But I just feel like the last

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meeting I was there, it was 11 ladies. So it's about 30 of us now. I don't know what you all are here for, but I have a little reason but I can't tell my little reason right now. But I am so pleased that this will come to Midland.

I hope -- I hope that you all will decide Midland will be -- Midland for the Permian Basin will be the site. And I don't know what you women are here for, but I know you're here for a reason, because they said behind every good man there is a woman. So there you see these women. And I just wanted to say, I appreciate you all considering Midland and I hope it comes to Midland. Thank you, very much.

MR. McKOY: For those of you providing comments, we would like to send a copy of the Final EIS to you. The Final EIS should include all of the substantive comments that we get. So provide your address and name to Rachel Spangenberg and Rachel can -- stand up, Rachel, again. Provide that information to her. That will help us get a copy of the final EIS to you. Is there anyone else who would like to provide comment?

MS. MICHELLE MAYBERRY: Hello. My name is Michelle Mayberry, and a good person just left. His name is Michael Williams. He's the Railroad

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Commissioner. My mother didn't tell you, he's our cousin. And so as you can see, we all have the gift for talking. But I truly love my cousin and I highly endorse what he supports. So we in Midland and Odessa and the Permian Basin area, we truly would love to see you guys come to West Texas. This is a great opportunity for all of us to make West Texas more diversified and provide more opportunities, employment-wise. And just wouldn't it be great for us to be the first location in the world to have something like this?

So I look forward to it. I hope and pray that you guys will decide to come to West Texas, and we look forward to seeing you. Thank you and glad everyone is here.

MS. JESSICA SPARKMAN: I just had a really quick statement. And actually, I'm related to the environmental -- my name is Jessica Sparkman, S-P-A-R-K-M-A-N. I have seen the artistic representations of what the actual site will look like for the facility and I know that you guys went to the site yesterday and saw it. I haven't been to the other three, but I do know that I would guess that of the four, we would probably be the one that would have the best environmental impact locally. I think it would

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improve our beautification of the area quite a bit.

So I want to make sure that you understand that that's actually, environmentally, that's a big plus here that you can actually add to the beautification of the area. So I just wanted to add that comment.

MR. McKOY: Thank you. Well, I have never heard before that a power plant might actually improve the area. And keep in mind, we don't really know how the power plant is going to actually look. That's an artistic rendition.

Do we have more comments? Please state your name for the record.

MR. MORSE HAYNES: Morse Haynes, M-O-R-S-E. Didn't really plan to talk today, but I thought any time I get an opportunity to talk about Monahans and this region, I thought I would go ahead and take advantage of that. And what I would like to stress on this is how it is a regional project and Odessa and Midland have been very strong in this. And all the communities around it are very supportive of them in this venture. And I know Monahans is and we have a great support there.

Just today, everywhere I go, well, what do you think about FutureGen? Well, I spend 20 minutes at the post office talking about how important FutureGen is

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and what it's going to do for this region. And anyway, not that we have -- what I would like to say is we have options. Midland-Odessa, quality of school systems, quality of communities, Monahans, Crane, Wink, Kermit, Andrews, all of them are quality. I think what the

difference would be, you have communities around the other sites but here you have quality, and I think that is a very important to the project. And again, as a region, we are very supportive of FutureGen. Thank you.

MR. McKOY: Do we have any more comments? Okay. One last call, anybody else?

Okay. Well, thank you for your comments and participation. Remember, that you may submit comments until July 16th, 2007. This concludes the public hearing for the FutureGen project. Let the record show that the hearing adjourned at 8:14 p.m. and thanks for your participation.

(Applause)

(Public Meeting Adjourned)

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THE STATE OF TEXAS)
COUNTY OF MIDLAND)

I, Jane McGill, Certified Shorthand Reporter Number 1759 for The State of Texas and Certified Shorthand Reporter Number 125 for the State of New Mexico, do hereby certify that the facts stated by me in the caption hereof are true, and that I did, in computerized stenotype shorthand, report said proceedings and that the above and foregoing pages contain a full, true and correct computer-assisted transcription of my computerized stenotype shorthand notes taken on said occasion.

I further certify that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties or attorneys in the action in which this proceeding was taken, and further that I am not financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

Witness my hand this day of , 2007.

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Appendix L – Comment - Response Flow Chart

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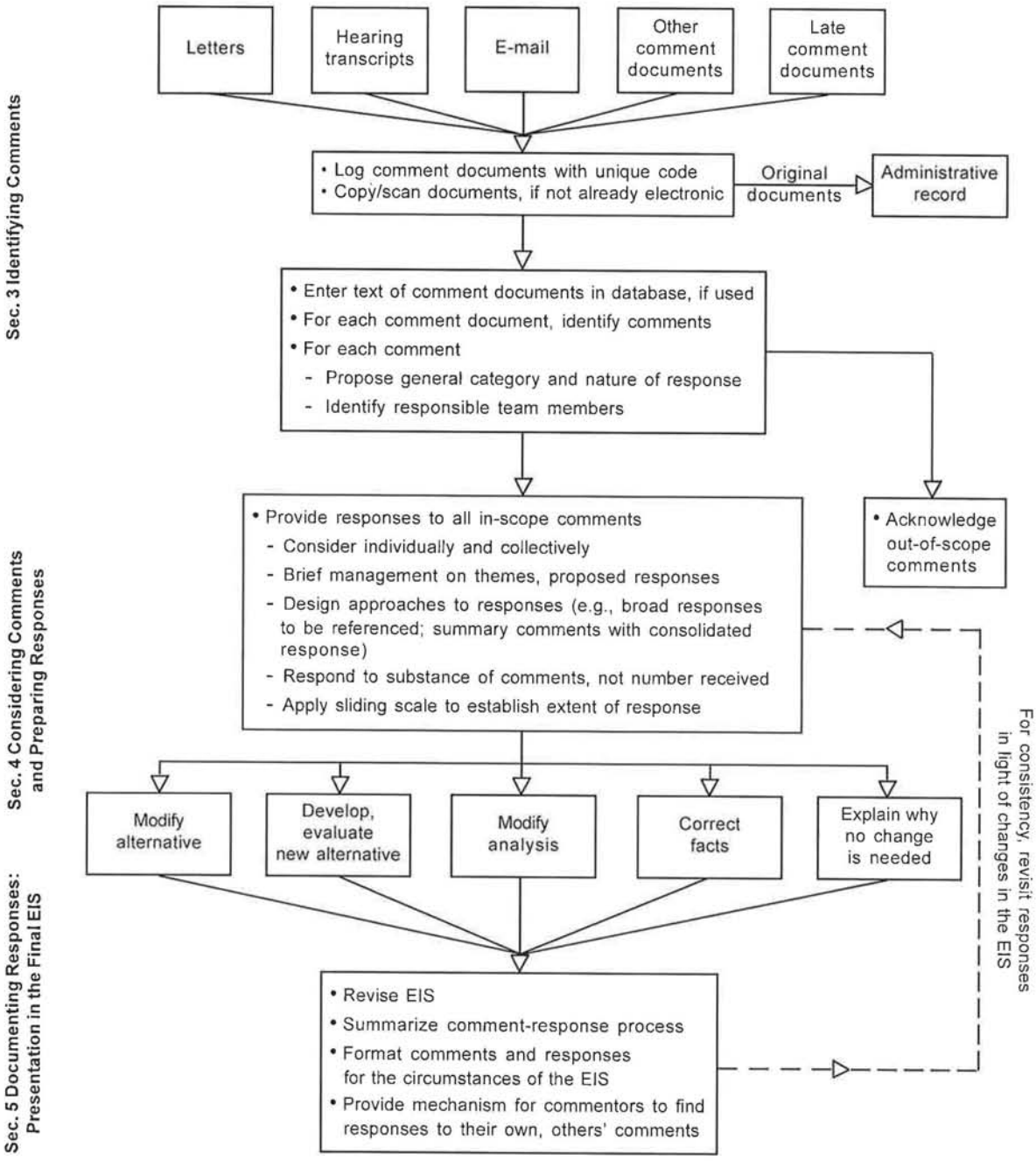
Flow Chart for the Comment-Response Process

This process is under the leadership of the DOE NEPA Document Manager



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