

COVER SHEET

Responsible Agency: U.S. Department of Energy

Title: Final Environmental Impact Statement for FutureGen Project (DOE/EIS-0394)

Location: Mattoon, Illinois; Tuscola, Illinois; Jewett, Texas; and Odessa, Texas

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Abstract:

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the FutureGen Project provides information about the potential environmental impacts of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) proposal to provide federal funding to the FutureGen Alliance, Inc. (Alliance) for the FutureGen Project. In a March 2004 Report to Congress, DOE estimated the cost of the project at \$950 million in constant 2004 dollars shared at a 74/26 ratio by DOE and the Alliance. Accounting for escalation, based on representative industry indices, the project is currently estimated to cost **\$1.757 billion** in as-spent dollars. The cost estimate will be updated as work progresses.

The Alliance is a non-profit industrial consortium led by the coal-fueled electric power industry and the coal production industry. The FutureGen Project would include the planning, design, construction, and operation by the Alliance of a coal-fueled electric power and hydrogen gas production plant integrated with carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture and geologic sequestration of the captured gas. The FutureGen Project would employ integrated gasification combined cycle power plant technology that for the first time would be integrated with CO₂ capture and geologic sequestration. Four sites have been identified as reasonable alternatives and are considered in this EIS: (1) Mattoon, Illinois; (2) Tuscola, Illinois; (3) Jewett, Texas; and (4) Odessa, Texas.

DOE determined that the proposed FutureGen Project constitutes a major federal action within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act. The *Federal Register* "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for FutureGen Project" was published on July 28, 2006 (71 FR 42840). DOE held public scoping meetings at Mattoon, Illinois, on August 31, 2006; Tuscola, Illinois, on August 29, 2006; Fairfield, Texas (near Jewett), on August 22, 2006; and Midland, Texas (near Odessa), on August 24, 2006.

The Final EIS provides an evaluation of the environmental consequences that may result from the Proposed Action at each of the four candidate sites, including potential impacts on 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. The Final EIS also provides an analysis of the No-Action Alternative, under which DOE would not provide financial assistance to the FutureGen

Project. *The preferred alternative, to provide financial assistance to the FutureGen Project, is identified in the Final EIS.*

Public Participation:

DOE encourages public participation in the NEPA process. Comments were invited on the Draft EIS for a period of 45 days after publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on June 1, 2007. DOE considered all comments to the extent practicable. DOE conducted four public hearings to receive comments on the Draft EIS in June 2007 in Midland (Odessa), Texas; Buffalo (Jewett), Texas; Mattoon, Illinois; and Tuscola, Illinois. The public was encouraged to provide oral comments at the hearings and to submit written comments to DOE by the close of the comment period on July 16, 2007.

Changes from the Draft EIS:

Vertical lines in the left margin of a page indicate where text in the Draft EIS has been deleted, revised, or supplemented for this Final EIS, except for Volume III, which contains the public comments on the Draft EIS and DOE's responses. Additionally, revised and supplemental text in the Summary and Volumes I and II are shown in boldface italics font (as in this paragraph). Sections that include revisions are also identified in the Table of Contents.