

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Bureau of Air  
Permit Section

October 2015

Responsiveness Summary  
Construction Permit Application  
Midwest Generation, LLC  
Joliet, Illinois  
Natural Gas Conversion Project

Source Identification No.: 197809AAO  
Application No.: 15030051

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## **DECISION**

On October 16, 2015, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) issued an air pollution control construction permit to Midwest Generation, LLC, for a natural gas conversion project at its Joliet Generating Station, 1800 Channahon Road in Joliet.

Copies of the documents can be obtained from the contact listed at the end of this document. The permit and additional copies of this document can also be obtained from the Illinois EPA website <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/public-notices/general-notices/index>

## **BACKGROUND**

On March 31, 2015, the Illinois EPA, Bureau of Air received a construction permit application from Midwest Generation for a natural gas conversion project at its Joliet Generating Station. The boilers at the Joliet station currently burn low-sulfur western coal. The proposed project would convert the boilers from burning coal to burning natural gas. As part of this project, Midwest Generation would also construct a natural gas-fired auxiliary boiler and natural gas-fired fuel heaters.

The Illinois EPA Bureau of Air evaluates applications and issues permits for sources of emissions. An air permit application must appropriately address compliance with applicable air pollution control laws and regulations before a permit can be issued. Following initial review of the application, the Illinois EPA Bureau of Air made a preliminary determination that the application met the standards for issuance of a construction permit and prepared a draft permit for public review and comment.

The public comment period began with the publication of a notice in the Joliet Herald News on August 10, 2015. The notice ran again in the Joliet Herald News on August 17, 2015 and August 24, 2015. A public hearing was held on September 24, 2015 at the Joliet Junior College Weitendorf Agricultural Education Center to receive oral comments and answer questions regarding the application and draft construction permit. The comment period closed on October 9, 2015.

## **AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS**

The permit issued to Midwest Generation and this responsiveness summary are available at the Illinois EPA's internet site at <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/public-notices/general-notices/index>.<sup>1</sup> Copies of these documents may also be obtained by contacting the Illinois EPA at the telephone numbers listed at the end of this document.

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<sup>1</sup> This information may also be available on the Illinois Permit Database operated by USEPA, at <http://www.epa.gov/reg5oair/permits/ilonline.html>.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Illinois EPA did not receive any written comments from the public during the public comment period for this proposed action. At the public hearing, the Illinois EPA received a number of oral comments supporting the issuance of a construction permit for this project, such as those repeated below. As these oral comments were general in nature and, in many cases, referred to the economic benefits of the project, it is not necessary or appropriate for the Illinois EPA to provide specific responses to these comments.

- I support the conversion from coal to natural gas.
- Power plants bring a lot of income to people in the area.
- I would like to thank Midwest Generation for being a good employer, in trying to keep this power plant open and by doing this conversion, instead of closing this plant down.
- This plant serves lots of people around this area for jobs and income, and this project will be a big huge job for all the building trade affiliates and the pipefitters, boilermakers, electricians. I urge the Illinois EPA to issue the permit for the project.
- I am glad to hear the conversion will reduce emissions and create upwards of 300 jobs. This plant is adjacent to Caterpillar-Joliet, which is losing more and more jobs. Caterpillar recently announced a further reduction. The fact that up to 300 tradespeople will be employed in this conversion, and again emissions will be reduced, earns my wholehearted support.

## **FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Questions about the public comment period and the permit decision should be directed to:

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