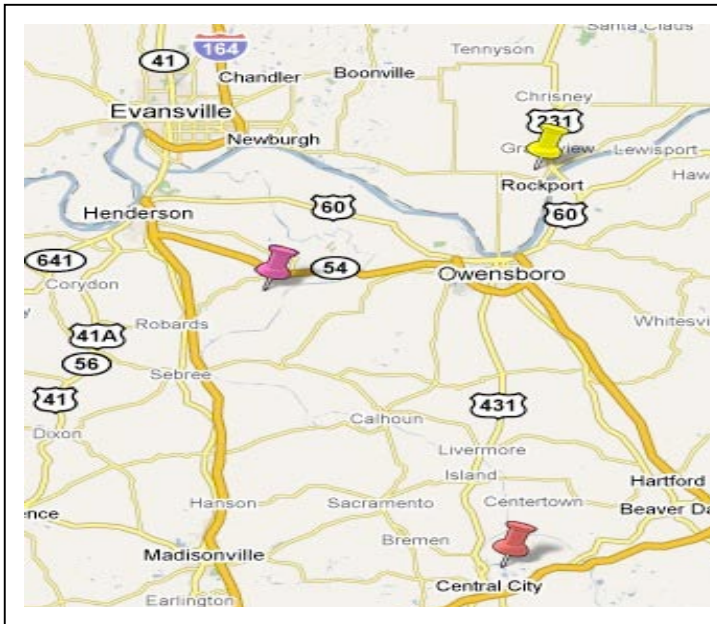


PUBLIC HEARING: New Coal Plant Proposed for Owensboro

Come Voice Your Concerns on Aug 24th



WHAT:

Public Hearing – Open to any concerned citizen
The public hearing is on the proposed “Cash Creek” Coal Gasification Plant’s water quality permit. For talking points email: lauren.mcgrath@sierraclub.org

WHERE:

The Henderson County Fiscal Court.
Located on the third floor of the Henderson County Courthouse, at First and Main Streets in downtown Henderson, KY (across from Simon’s Shoes)

WHEN:

Monday, August 24th at 6p Central Time

Did you know that Big Coal wants to surround Owensboro with new coal-powered plants?

Cash Creek (pictured above; left of Owensboro) is one of three proposed huge coal gasification projects, which would process coal into expensive ‘synthetic gas’ that would surround Owensboro. These plants – the Cash Creek Generating Station, Peabody NewGas, and Indiana Gasification – are financially risky and would adversely impact public health.

Today, we have better choices. By leading the transition to clean energy, we can help our region move forward to a cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous future for our children and our country.

For example, in Clark County, a recent analysis¹ demonstrated that instead of building a new coal plant, investing in a combination of energy efficiency, weatherization, hydropower and wind power would generate thousands of jobs, and millions more in spending for job creation. These figures far surpass any jobs created by a new coal plant. As citizens, we have the opportunity to stop investments in risky technologies and call upon our elected leaders to commit towards clean energy policies.

Business as usual is an economic dead-end.

Manufactured coal syngas costs approximately twice as much as natural gas, and has less heat value. Business as usual is too risky for Kentuckians. Already, coal companies take \$115 million dollars more per year from Kentucky than they pay in taxes and salaries. If coal was going to make Kentucky coal-counties rich, it would have done so by now. Now, with growing evidence that coal is financially risky, many states and businesses and cities are starting to reject dirty coal in favor of clean energy and the jobs it brings.

¹ *An Analysis of the Economic Impact of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in the East Kentucky Power Cooperative Region.* Thorp, William; Quillien, Lori. Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies, July 2009

The Gasifiers Threaten Our Rivers and Drinking Water

The Ohio and Green Rivers are environmental and economic treasures. They supply our water, shape our landscape, and provide a great place for fishing and recreation. The gasifier boom risks these resources.

These big plants come with big pollution problems. Each of them would fill in wetlands and small streams vital to keeping rivers clean and healthy. Each would discharge large amounts of waste water, with significant amounts of water pollution. The wastewater of the similar Wabash River plant in Indiana, for instance, exceeded limits for arsenic, selenium, and cyanide.

“Cash Creek alone would take over 14 million gallons of water - daily - from the Green River “

These plants are also water-hogs, sucking in millions of gallons of water from our rivers every single day. Cash Creek alone would take over 14 million gallons, daily, from the Green – more than twice as much water as most conventional coal-fired power plants. This water would be dumped back hot – at nearly ninety degrees – threatening river life.

The Gasifiers Would Pollute Our Air and Hamper Economic Growth

Bad air means lost jobs and a lower quality of life. Polluted air gives kids asthma, threatens the elderly, and worsens everyone’s health, while discouraging employers from locating in our area.

Coal to synthetic natural gas (Coal SynGas) is a dirty fuel produced by gasifying coal. Coal SynGas is being promoted as one solution to our nation’s energy problems by the coal industry. However, the life cycle of Coal SynGas creates more than twice as much carbon dioxide (CO₂) as conventional natural gas.

Cash Creek’s air quality permit would allow it to dump 965 tons per year of CO, 700 tons per year of NO_x, volatile organic compounds, sulfuric acid mist, and other hazardous air pollutants. The emissions will cause unhealthy smog and airborne fine particulates. Although the company claims it will pump some of these emissions away through a pipeline – that infrastructure’s far from becoming a reality.

The Gasifiers Would Produce Toxic Waste

Coal ash is toxic waste. It contains heavy metals, like mercury and selenium, and dangerous chemical compounds. If ash isn’t properly disposed of, it can badly contaminate drinking water, elevating health risks, including the risk of cancer. And poorly-designed ash storage sites can produce dangerous spills. We don’t want toxic waste near our homes and families.

Take Action to Choose a Better Future: Join Us on August 24

We can protect our air, our rivers, and our communities by letting government decision-makers know that we want a clean energy future. They need to hear from us that the risks are not justified by any tangible long-term gains from these proposed plants.

CHOOSE A BETTER FUTURE FOR KENTUCKY

HOW: Join us for the Cash Creek Public Hearing on Water Quality
WHEN & WHERE: Aug 24th, 6 pm at the Henderson County Court House

For more info or to get involved, contact: lauren.mcgrath@sierraclub.org or 270.685.2034