

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)  
Notice of Water Discharge Permit Public Hearing

**Prairie Coal Company, L.L.C.  
Lost Prairie Mine**

**Public Hearing  
Wednesday, March 21, 2012  
NPDES Permit Hearing at 5 p.m.**

**Pinckneyville Junior High School  
700 E. Water Street  
Pinckneyville, Illinois**

The IEPA Bureau of Water has prepared a draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for Prairie Coal Company, L.L.C. for Lost Prairie Mine. The address of the discharger is Prairie Coal Company, L.L.C., City One Place, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO. 63141. The facility is in Perry County, 6.6 miles northwest of Pinckneyville, Illinois.

Illinois EPA is holding this hearing for the purpose of taking comments on the draft permit prior to taking final action on the permit application. Issues relevant to this proceeding include the antidegradation analysis and the applicant's compliance with requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and Subtitles C and D, 35 Illinois Adm. Code. Because Illinois is mandated by state law to issue a permit if the applicant meets the requirements for obtaining a permit, those recommending denial of the permit application should be prepared to state the regulation that is the basis of their recommendation.

The applicant proposes a new underground coal mine (SIC 1222). Mining operations result in the discharge of water classified as alkaline mine drainage. Application is made for one new discharge into stream segment NCK-01 of Wolf Creek. This segment also receives the flow from the unnamed tributary into which Outfall 001 discharges and is not on the draft 2010 303(d) list of impaired waters.

The facility will contain a processing plant, coal stockpiles, refuse disposal areas, railroad loop, and support areas for the new underground mine. The permitted area of the above ground facilities will be 848.0 acres of which 399.3 will be disturbed and 448.7 will remain undisturbed.

The Prep Plant Rejects Pond is not designed to discharge into waters of the state; it will be operated as part of a closed circuit system. If there is a discharge, the water will flow into the sediment pond. The prep plant uses water with the source water being the Prep Plant Rejects Pond and the sediment pond. Approximately 1,200 gpm of water from the sedimentation pond will be used at the facility. Mine pumpage with a maximum rate of 500 gpm will be pumped to the sedimentation pond.

The NPDES permit and the public notice/fact sheet were public noticed on September 22, 2011. The antidegradation assessment, which was part of the public notice, and other documents for this proceeding can be viewed on the IEPA website: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/public-notice/2011/npdes-notice.html#lost-prairie-mine>.

The information in this antidegradation assessment came from the Application for OMM Permit No. 412, responses to the review letter and the OMM's modification letter and the July 8, 2011 letter with the alternatives and economic benefits analysis prepared by Midwest Reclamation Resources, Inc.

The draft permit, public notice/fact sheet, the regulations governing the conduct of the hearing and other documents can be reviewed and copied at the Illinois EPA, 1021 N. Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois; 217-782-0610. Please call ahead for an appointment.

Inquiries about the draft permit IL00779391 should be directed to Larry Crislip, Manager, Permit Section, IEPA Mine Pollution Control Program, 2309 W. Main St., Marion, IL, 618-993-7200, e-mail [Larry.Crislip@Illinois.gov](mailto:Larry.Crislip@Illinois.gov).

The hearing will be held under the provisions of 35 Illinois Administrative Code 166, *Procedures for Permit and Closure Plan Hearings*, which can be obtained online at <http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-11865>.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with provisions of Sections 309.115 through 309.119. Requests for special needs interpreters must be made to the IEPA hearing officer by **February 29, 2012**. These documents can be obtained online at <http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-33358>.

The hearing record is a file containing the hearing transcript and written comments. **Written comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by midnight, April 20, 2012, when the hearing record closes** (e-mails with written comments **must be** sent to [epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov](mailto:epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov) and should specify Lost Prairie Mine NPDES or IL0079391 in the subject line). The IEPA welcomes substantive written comments. Comments need not be notarized and should be sent to:

Hearing Officer Dean Studer  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
P. O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794-9276  
Phone 217-558-8280

TDD (hearing impaired) 217-782-9143

All other comments not pertaining to this permit can be emailed to the hearing officer at [dean.studer@illinois.gov](mailto:dean.studer@illinois.gov).