

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)  
Notice of Water Discharge Permit Public Hearing  
NPDES Permit No. IL0062189

**Peabody Coulterville Mining, L.L.C.**  
**Gateway Mine**  
**Randolph County**

**Public Hearing**  
**Tuesday, March 31, 2015 6:00pm**

**Sparta City Hall, Council Chambers**  
**114 West Jackson Street**  
**Sparta, Illinois 62286**

The Illinois EPA Bureau of Water has prepared a draft renewed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit with modifications for Peabody Coulterville Mining, L.L.C., whose address is 7100 Eagle Crest Boulevard, Suite 200, Evansville, IN 47702-0312. The Gateway Mine facility is located at 13101 Zeigler 11 Road, Coulterville, IL 62237 in Randolph County (approximately two miles south of Coulterville, Illinois) and proposes to discharge into unnamed tributaries of Mary's River, of Plum Creek, and of Lick Branch (see <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/Assets/iepa/public-notices/2015/peabody-coulterville-gateway/public-notice.pdf> for additional information).

The Illinois EPA is holding a hearing to accept comments from the public on the proposed reissuance of a permit with modifications for this project, prior to making a final decision 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 Ill. Adm. Code. Because Illinois EPA 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. Issues related to the mining operations are not relevant in this proceeding and should be directed to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals.

The applicant operates surface facilities for an underground coal mine (SIC 1222). Mine operations result in the discharge of waste classified as alkaline mine drainage.

Comments are invited on the draft reissued permit which incorporates the following modifications:

1. Various modifications and/or additions to surface facilities including additional coal stockpile and coal loadout, removal of thickener pond, construction of a pole building and soil stockpiles.
2. Deletion of Outfall 005 and 20-acre area tributary to this basin as the watershed to the basin has been reclaimed in accordance with 35 Ill. Adm. Code 405.109 and the approved abandonment plan for the area.
3. Incorporation of 68.68 additional acres under Incidental Boundary Revisions (IBR's).
4. Incorporation of additional permit area for Refuse Cell 5 located on 100.0 acres and identified as OMM Permit No. 426.

5. Incorporation of four new discharges designated as Outfalls 009, 010, 011 and 012.
6. Incorporation of previously issued State Operating permits which approved utilization of water treatment plant lime sludge for neutralization of potentially acidic coal refuse.
7. Incorporation of previously issued State Operating permits which approved disposal of coal combustion waste in conjunction with coal refuse disposal.
8. Additional approvals for utilization of water treatment plant lime sludge for neutralization of potentially acidic coal refuse and sewage treatment plant sludge as a soil amendment.
9. Permit transfer from Coulterville Coal Company, L.L.C. – Gateway Mine to Peabody Coulterville Mining, L.L.C. – Gateway Mine.
10. Surface drainage control revision for area tributary to Outfall 008 due to incorporation of new Outfall 009.
11. Surface drainage control revision to facilitate reclamation of refuse disposal Cell 2.

The Illinois EPA has made a tentative determination to reissue this NPDES permit with modifications for discharge into waters of the state in accordance with 35 Ill. Adm. Code Subtitle C (Water Pollution), Subtitle D (Mine Related Water Pollution), the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and the federal Clean Water Act. The draft NPDES permit and the public notice/fact sheet were public noticed on January 7, 2015. The antidegradation assessment, which is part of the public notice, and other documents for this proceeding can be viewed on the IEPA website: <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/public-notices/npdes-notices/index#peabody-coulterville-gateway> (please copy this website address into your browser).

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.

For information or requests about the draft permit, please contact: Barb Lieberoff, Office of Community Relations, Illinois EPA, 1021 N. Grand Ave. East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-92976, 217/524-3038 or by email at [barb.lieberoff@illinois.gov](mailto:barb.lieberoff@illinois.gov)

The hearing will be conducted under 35 Ill. Adm. Code 166 in accordance with provisions of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.115 through 309.119. Requests for special needs interpreters must be made to the Illinois EPA hearing officer by March 16, 2015. The hearing record is a file containing the hearing transcript and written comments. **Written comments must be physically received by April 15, 2015; mailed comments must be postmarked in sufficient time to arrive at Illinois EPA by April 15, 2015 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 **Gateway Mine NPDES or IL0062189 in the subject line**. Email comments originating on third party systems or servers intended for submittal of multiple emails of the same or nearly the same content will not be accepted without prior approval from the hearing officer. Comments need not be notarized and should be sent to:

Hearing Officer Dean Studer, Mail Code #5  
Re: Gateway Mine NPDES  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
P. O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794-9276  
Phone 217-558-8280

email comments: [epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov](mailto:epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov)  
TDD (hearing impaired) 217-782-9143

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