

## **Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**

### **Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Hearings For Draft Permits Affecting the Prairie State Generating Company, LLC**

This notice pertains to three permitting actions relating to the operation of emissions-related activities and equipment by the Prairie State Generating Company, LLC, (Prairie State) at its energy campus located at 1739 Marigold Road, Marissa, Illinois. The predominant function of these actions is to process a new Clean Air Act Permit Program (CAAPP) operating permit for the Prairie State facility. These actions also include a revision of a Prevention Significant Deterioration (PSD) term from within the facility's PSD and State construction permit in the CAAPP permit and the processing of a Clean Air Act Acid Rain permit. Following a review of application materials submitted by Prairie State, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) has made the preliminarily determination that the permits should be granted.

The Illinois EPA has prepared draft permits for these permitting actions and is affording a public comment period that will run through Monday, March 9, 2026, through which questions or comments may be presented by the public. Three public hearing opportunities (one in-person hearing and two virtual hearings) will also be available on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, and on Thursday, February 5, 2026, through which interested persons may participate. All matters will be covered at all hearings.

The plant largely consists of a nearby mine-mouth coal facility and two supercritical steam generators (or boilers) for generating electrical power. The plant also operates a natural gas-fired auxiliary boiler, cooling towers, haul roads, material transfer points (including transfer points at the affiliated coal mine), and a coal combustion residuals disposal facility.

The main permitting action in this proceeding is a draft of the new CAAPP operating permit for the Prairie State facility. A CAAPP permit is required for all “major sources” operating in Illinois. The proposed CAAPP permit will be issued under the CAAPP’s procedures for issuance of a CAAPP permit (Section 39.5 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and 35 Ill. Adm. Code 270). When issued, the CAAPP permit for the Prairie State facility will consolidate all applicable requirements of the federal Clean Air Act and the Illinois Environmental Protection Act. Additionally, the permit will roll in the terms and conditions of issued permits, most notably, the PSD and State construction permit for the facility. This makes it simpler for regulators, such as Illinois EPA or the United States EPA, and the public to identify the emission standards, testing, reporting, and other requirements that apply to the source, as well as monitor source compliance or enforce the permit. The permit’s duration will be for a five-year term.

Another permit action involved in this proceeding is one revision to the underlying PSD and State construction permit, which Illinois EPA issued to Prairie State in April 2005. One of the terms of the PSD permit set a 0.035 pounds per million British Thermal Units (lbs/MMbtu) particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less (PM<sub>10</sub>) emission limit for each boiler but allowed for a later consideration by the Illinois EPA of whether the units could meet a more stringent limit of 0.018 lbs/MMbtu. The emission limit reflects a prior demonstration of Best Available Control Technology (BACT), which is an important feature of the PSD program. Based on the facility’s emissions data, the Illinois EPA has determined that Prairie State can meet the more stringent emission limit and is therefore revising the PSD permit through the CAAPP’s procedures for this new CAAPP permit. The

degree of ambient air increment consumed by the project, which is another feature of PSD that measures allowable pollution that can occur in an area without causing air quality deterioration, will be less than originally permitted due to the selection of a more stringent emission limit.

In addition, a third permitting action addressing Prairie State's obligation to hold a permit under the Clean Air Act's Acid Rain Program pursuant to and consistent with Section 39.5(17)(f) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and Title IV and V of the federal Clean Air Act is included in this proceeding. The draft permit prepared by the Illinois EPA would address the two boilers operating at this plant because they are affected electric generating units (EGUs) and emit both sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxides (NOx), which are the main precursors of acid rain regulated by the federal program. As such, it would require the source to hold SO<sub>2</sub> allowances under the Acid Rain Program to account for the SO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the affected units. An allowance is a limited authorization to emit one ton of SO<sub>2</sub> on or after a given calendar year. The draft permit would also address the applicable limit under the Acid Rain Program that applies to the emissions of NOx of the affected units. In addition, the draft permit contains emission monitoring and reporting requirements for both pollutants under the Acid Rain Program. The issuance of the acid rain permit concurrent with the Title V permit is a long-standing practice by Illinois EPA. The permit would not affect the source's responsibility to meet all applicable federal, state, and local requirements.

### **WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

The Illinois EPA is accepting written public comments on the draft permits. All comments must be received no later than **11:59 PM CST on Monday, March 9, 2026**, the official close of the record. Please reference "Prairie State Generating Company, LLC" in all correspondence. Comments may be submitted by email to [EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov](mailto:EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov) or mailed to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Attn: Jeff Guy, Hearing Officer  
P.O. Box 19276  
2520 West Iles Avenue  
Springfield, Illinois 62974-9276

### **PUBLIC HEARING SESSIONS**

The Illinois EPA Bureau of Air will hold three public hearing sessions to receive public comments on the draft permits:

<b>Session 1 – In-Person Hearing</b>	<b>Session 2 – Online Hearing</b>	<b>Session 3 – Online Hearing</b>
<b>Date:</b> Tuesday, February 3, 2026 <b>Time:</b> 6:00 PM CST <b>Location:</b> Marissa Jr./Sr. High School 300 School View Drive, Marissa, Illinois	<b>Date:</b> Thursday, February 5, 2026 <b>Time:</b> 2:00 PM CST <b>Platform:</b> Webex <b>Join Link:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/4pxZYi2">https://bit.ly/4pxZYi2</a> <b>Meeting Number:</b> 2864 372 0719 <b>Password:</b> Session2 (73774662 when dialing from a phone or video system)	<b>Date:</b> Thursday, February 5, 2026 <b>Time:</b> 6:00 PM CST <b>Platform:</b> Webex <b>Join Link:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/4rsbzkG">https://bit.ly/4rsbzkG</a> <b>Meeting Number:</b> 2861 412 3984 <b>Password:</b> Session3 (73774663 when dialing from a phone or video system)

## **HEARING REGISTRATION**

To register to provide comments during any of the hearing sessions, please complete the online form at <https://forms.office.com/g/aj4TLph8RQ>. Registration may also be completed by contacting the Illinois EPA Hearing Officer by email at [EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov](mailto:EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov) or by telephone at (217) 785-8724.

## **ONLINE HEARING PARTICIPATION**

Participants may join the online hearings using a computer, smartphone, or dial-in phone. Access will be available up to 15 minutes before the scheduled start time. All participants will be muted upon entry. For technical assistance, please contact the Illinois EPA Hearing Officer by email at [EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov](mailto:EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov) or by phone at (217) 785-8724.

### **Connect by Computer**

1. Select Join Link (above) for applicable session.
2. Join Webex via Webex app or browser.
3. If prompted, enter your name and email address.
4. If prompted, enter the Meeting Number (above) and Password (above) for applicable session.
5. Select desired audio connection.

### **Connect by Smartphone or Other Device**

1. Select Join Link (above) for applicable session.
2. Download Webex application if prompted. Open Webex application. Join Meeting.
3. Enter Meeting Number (above) for applicable session.
4. Enter name and email address. Select Join.
5. Enter Password (above) for applicable session. Join Webinar.

### **Connect by Dial-In Phone**

1. Call +1-312-535-8110.
2. Enter Meeting Number (above) for applicable session followed by # sign.
3. Enter numeric Password (above) for applicable session followed by # sign.

## **REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

Requests for special accommodations must be submitted no later than **5:00 PM CST on Tuesday, January 6, 2026**. Requests may be made by email to [EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov](mailto:EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov), by phone at (217) 785-8724, or via TDD at (866) 273-5488.

## **DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES**

Documents related to these permitting actions are available on the Illinois EPA Bureau of Air Permit Public Notices webpage at <https://epa.illinois.gov/public-notices/boa-notices.html>, at the following Illinois EPA offices: Springfield: 2520 West Iles Avenue, (217) 786-0790 and Collinsville: 1101 Eastport Plaza Drive, Suite 100, (618) 346-5120 (please call ahead to ensure staff availability) and at the Marissa Area Public Library District: 212 North Main Street in Marissa. For questions about the draft permits, contact Sarah Brubaker by email at [Sarah.Brubaker@Illinois.gov](mailto:Sarah.Brubaker@Illinois.gov) or by phone at (217) 786-0790.