

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)
Notice of Water Discharge Permit Public Hearing
NPDES Permit IL0002259

**Midwest Generation, L.L.C.
Waukegan Generation Station**

**Public Hearing
Wednesday, July 31, 2013
NPDES Hearing at 6:30 pm.**

**Jane Addams Center-Bowen Park
95 Jack Benny Drive
Waukegan, Illinois 60087**

The IEPA Bureau of Water has prepared a draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Waukegan Generation Station Midwest Generation L.L.C., 235 Remington Boulevard, Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440.

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 applicant's compliance with requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and Subtitle C and 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 for their recommendation.

The applicant is engaged operation of a steam electric generating station (SIC 4911). The station operates two coal fired boilers to supply steam to two generating units, designated units 7 and 8 with a combined nominal capacity of 742 MW. The station withdraws water from Lake Michigan for condenser cooling, house service water and boiler feed water. Wastewater is generated from once-through condenser cooling, conditioning boiler feed water, backwashing the condenser cooling water intake screens, non-chemical cleaning of plant equipment, ash handling, and precipitation which contacts the site.

Plant operation results in an average discharge of 768.62 MGD of condenser cooling water and house service water from outfall 001, an intermittent discharge of boiler blowdown from outfall A01, 0.151 MGD of demineralizer regenerant wastes from outfall B01, 8.13 MGD of wastewater treatment system effluent from outfall C01, 0.676 MGD of east yard basin overflow from outfall D01, an intermittent discharge of unit 7 demineralized water storage tank drain from outfall F03, and an intermittent discharge of non-chemical metal cleaning wastes from outfall G01.

In the Best Professional Judgment of the Agency, it must be assumed that the design of the cooling water intake structure met the equivalent of Best Technology Available at the time of its construction. The Agency currently has no information that would alter that finding. However, in order for the Agency to fully evaluate the potential impacts of cooling water intake structure operation, Special Condition 7 was included requiring the submittal of additional information on the operation of the intake structure. The permit may be modified based on this information, with public notice and opportunity for comment.

While the permit does prohibit the discharge of PCBs, which is the best available technology economically achievable per 40 CFR 423.13(a), PCB monitoring is not being required due to the fact that the four PCB-containing transformers at the facility are each located inside a secured and covered building, constructed with its own secondary containment system, and located at least 1,000 feet from the nearest outdoor open water basin.

The following modifications are proposed:

1. The existing discharge of non-chemical metal cleaning wastes will be regulated by newly designated internal outfall G01 because it is a regulated wastestream in the Steam Electric Effluent Guideline and BPT limits must be met prior to dilution with other wastestreams.
2. The discharger address was changed.
3. Internal monitoring point E01 was removed as the demineralized water (off specification bypass) is actually tributary to internal monitoring point B01.
4. The outfall 001 sample point will be moved to the zebra mussel gate.

The NPDES permit and the public notice/fact sheet were public noticed on August 6, 2012. Documents for this proceeding can be viewed on the IEPA website: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/2013/midwest-generation-waukegan/index.pdf>

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 IL0002259 should be directed to Jamie Rabins, Permit Section, IEPA, 1021 N Grand Ave East, P.O.Box 19276., Springfield IL, 62794-9276, 217-782-0610, e-mail Jamie.Rabins@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. These documents can be obtained online at

<http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-33358>

Requests for special needs interpreters must be made to the IEPA hearing officer by **June 27, 2013**.

The hearing record is a file containing the hearing transcript and written comments. **Written comments must be physically received by, August 30, 2013, when the hearing record closes** (e-mails with written comments **must be** sent to epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov and should specify Midwest Generation/Waukegan NPDES or IL0002259 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. 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.