

Collins, Lisa P.
Lexington, KY
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December 17, 2001

Mr. Roy Spears
U.S. Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory
3610 Collins Ferry Road
Morgantown, WV 26507-0880

Dear Mr. Spears:

I am writing concerning the public hearings held in Lexington and Trapp, Kentucky on December 10 and 11 in relation to the Kentucky Pioneer Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Demonstration Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement. While this is the first time that I have attended public hearings of this nature, the overwhelming impression left with me is that Kentuckians have not had the opportunity to review the Trapp EIS and were at a distinct disadvantage at the public hearings, the format of which did not allow for participants to learn about the proposed project. In addition, because the EIS has not been available in the public library in Clark County, the county on which the proposed project would have the most impact, Kentuckians have not been privy to the due process that these public hearings are designed to provide.

As you stated at the December 11 hearing in Trapp, advertising in the Louisville, Lexington and Winchester newspapers proved to be ineffective. I do not know where these public notices appeared, but if they appeared in the classified section of the newspapers, this is indeed an obsolete way to communicate. As you recommended, public notices of this importance should be disseminated via television and radio, and I add to your proposal that the notices should appear as display advertisements as opposed to classified advertisements. Additionally, it is only right that residents be given greater access to the EIS. Placing one copy in the public library is not a strong attempt at notification (and even that did not occur in the instance of Winchester in Clark County). Cannot is this document be available on the Web, and multiple copies available at all local schools, libraries, and courthouses? Additionally, the proposed project is extremely close to Estill and Madison counties, and Clark County is contiguous to Montgomery, Bourbon, Powell, and Fayette counties as well. Should not the public hearings have been advertised in these counties, and the EIS distributed there?

In light of the events to date, I am requesting the following:

- 1) that the EIS be made available on the Web and multiple copies sent to all schools, public libraries, and courthouses in Fayette, Clark, Madison, Estill, Powell, Bourbon and Montgomery counties;
- 2) that a second series of public hearings be held following a reasonable length of time beyond a thorough distribution of the EIS;
- 3) that the deadline for written comments be extended.

Comment No. 1

Issue Code: 21

NEPA requires that the public have the opportunity to comment on Draft EISs. The formal hearing was designed to obtain input from the public. Each of the public hearings was preceded by an informal open house during which members of the project staff were available to answer questions. One copy each of the Draft EIS was sent to Trapp Elementary School, Clark County Public Library (the designated project reading rooms), and Lexington Public Library during the general distribution on November 7, 2001. A public hearing in Lexington, Kentucky, was added in response to comments received during the scoping period. The public hearing dates, times, and locations were announced in the *Federal Register*, in local newspapers, *The Winchester Sun* and *The Lexington Herald-Leader*, and in public service announcements. All requirements in state and federal laws, rules, and regulations regarding announcements for public hearings were satisfied or surpassed. Due to security concerns resulting from the events of September 11th, DOE removed all NEPA documents from the agency's website. However, DOE distributed paper copies of the Draft EIS to all persons, organizations or agencies who commented during the scoping process or expressed interest in the Proposed Action. The comment period was extended through January 25, 2002. The Final EIS will be distributed to elected officials and any interested parties in neighboring counties. DOE will consider all public comments before issuing the ROD. The ROD will be issued no sooner than 30 days after the Final EIS is distributed and a notice of its availability is issued.

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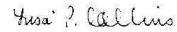
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On today's date I heard from people who have not yet received the EIS, even though they requested it prior to the December 10 and 11 public hearings. The January 4, 2002 deadline to respond to the EIS is too short. As a property owner near Trapp in Clark County, I am requesting that residents and concerned citizens be given the opportunity to be informed about this proposed project.

Sincerely,



Lisa P. Collins
2344 Harrodsburg Rd.
Lexington, KY 40503

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