



Hiring Underway for New Prairie State Energy Campus

By Vicki Niederhofer

Hiring is underway for Prairie State Energy Campus, a new \$4 billion power plant under construction in Lively Grove, Ill., about 50 miles southeast of St. Louis, Mo. The 1,600-mega watt supercritical power plant, expected to deliver electricity to more than 2.5 million families in eight states, is one of the largest and most technologically sophisticated coal-fired power plants in the country.

Prairie State Energy Campus currently has more than 200 full-time employees. More than 3,800 construction workers have been involved in the project. When construction at the plant is completed, 300 miners and another 200 employees will be working at the facility.

The employees will work in one of four main areas: mine, power plant, construction management and corporate. The best way for interested candidates to apply is to begin the process at Prairie State's website <http://www.prairiestateenergycampus.com>.

*Above:
Ariel photo of Prairie State
Energy Campus. Photo by John
Whitney of Aerials by Whitney.*

By any estimate, this is a big project, but to put it in perspective, the stack is taller than the Gateway Arch by 70 feet.



Mine and power plant employees in front of the Prairie State Energy Campus mine. Photo by Prairie State Energy Campus

Currently more than 30 employees are located in the campus' new corporate office building in Marissa, Ill. Business functions, including human resources, finance and overall management, are handled at the corporate office.

Prairie State is 95 percent owned by eight nonprofit utilities. The technologically advanced electric generation facility will utilize coal from an adjacent underground mine, which eliminates nearly 200,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions in transportation. The plant has the potential to accept greenhouse gas capture systems when the technology is commercially available, making it one of the cleanest power plants of its kind in the country for regulated pollutants. The plant is scheduled for completion in 2012.

Vicki Niederhofer is IDES Labor Market Economist for the southwest region of Illinois.

Facts About Prairie State Energy Campus:

- 1,600-megawatt supercritical power plant
- Estimated \$4 billion construction project
- One of the largest power plant construction projects in the U.S.
- 2,700+ construction workers
- 500+ full-time employees
- Will serve 2.5 million families in 8 states
- \$785 million in annual economic benefits to Illinois, including \$734 million to the region
- Air permit for energy campus construction issued in 2005

To apply for a job at Prairie State Energy Campus:

- Log on to <http://www.prairiestateenergycampus.com>.
- Click on the "Careers" tab
- Select PSEC Employment Listings.