

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

El Paso Electric Company, Montana Power Station

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROPOSED PERMIT AND PUBLIC HEARING, AND REQUEST
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CLEAN AIR ACT GREENHOUSE GAS
PREVENTION OF SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION PRECONSTRUCTION PERMIT**

Public Comment Period September 22, 2013 to October 22, 2013

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides notice of and requests public comments on the EPA's proposed action relating to the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit application for the El Paso Electric Company, Montana Power Station. If finalized, the permit would regulate greenhouse gas (GHG) pollutant emissions associated with the project to construct a new electric generation station in accordance with the PSD regulation (40 CFR 52.21). The proposed construction is located near El Paso, TX 79938 at the following coordinates: 31° 49' 26" N and 106° 12' 43" W.

EPA concludes that the El Paso Electric Company, Montana Power Station is subject to PSD review for the pollutant GHGs, as the project will result in increased greenhouse gas emissions for a facility described at 40 CFR 52.21(b)(49)(v). The proposed project consists of the construction of four (4) natural gas-fired combustion turbines, one (1) diesel firewater pump engine, fugitive circuit breaker emissions and fugitive emissions from various piping components. EPA Region 6 implements a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) PSD Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for Texas under the provisions of 40 CFR 52.21 (except paragraph (a)(1)). *See 40 CFR 52.2305.*

Any interested individual may submit written comments on EPA's proposed PSD permit for the Montana Power Station. All comments must be received in writing by October 22, 2013 or postmarked by October 22, 2013 to Melanie Magee at one of the following addresses:

EPA Contact: Melanie Magee

Phone Number: (214) 665-7161

E-mail: magee.melanie@epa.gov

U.S. Mail: Melanie Magee
Air Permits Section (6PD-R)
U.S. EPA, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

EPA will consider and respond to all comments in making the final decision regarding the issuing of the permit. Similar comments may be grouped together in the response, and the EPA will not respond to individual commenters directly.

Additionally, all comments will be included in the administrative record without change, and may be made available to the public, including any personal information provided, unless the comments includes Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Thus, CBI or other protected information should be clearly identified as such, and should not be submitted through email. Emails sent directly to the EPA will capture your email address automatically and will be included as part of the public comment. *Please note that an email or postal address must be provided with your comments if you wish to receive responses to comments submitted during the public comment period and direct notification of EPA's final decision regarding the permit.*

An extension of the 30-day comment period may be granted if the request for an extension adequately demonstrates why additional time is required to prepare comments.

Public Hearing: If EPA determines that there is a significant amount of public interest in the draft permit, the EPA has the right to hold a public hearing. Any request for a public hearing must be received by the EPA either by email or U.S. mail by October 15, 2013, and must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. Attendance at the public hearing is not required in order to submit written comments. **If the EPA determines that there is significant public interest**, a public hearing will be held on October 24, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the following location:

East Montana Middle School
3490 Ascension Road
El Paso, TX 79938
(915) 926-5200

If a public hearing is held, the public comment period shall automatically be extended to the close of the public hearing. The EPA maintains the right to cancel a public hearing if no request for a public hearing is received by October 15, 2013, or the EPA determines that there is not significant interest. **If the public hearing is cancelled**, notification of the cancellation will be posted by October 17, 2013 on the EPA's Website <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r6/Apermit.nsf/AirP>. Individuals may also call the EPA at the contact number listed above to determine if the public hearing has been cancelled.

Permit Documents: EPA's draft permit, EPA's preliminary determination and statement of basis, El Paso Electric Company's permit application and supporting documentation, and comments received from the public, other government agencies, and the applicant during the public comment period become part of the administrative record for the permit. In addition, all data submitted by the applicant is available as a part of the administrative record. The public can access the administrative record at the following locations (Please call in advance for available viewing times):

Esperanza Acosta Moreno Library
12480 Pebble Hills Blvd
El Paso, TX 79938

Phone: (915) 921-7001

EPA Region 6 Office

1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200

Dallas, TX 75202

Phone: (214) 665-7200

Final Determination: A final decision to issue a permit or to deny the application for the permit shall be made after all comments have been considered. Notice of the final decision shall be sent to each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice of the final permit decision, provided the EPA has adequate contact information.