

Tenaska Trailblazer Energy Center Leads Way in Carbon Capture, Helps Texans

The Tenaska Trailblazer Energy Center planned for Nolan County is attracting favorable attention in the U.S. and abroad because it provides many local and regional benefits while addressing concerns associated with world climate change.

A few days ago, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram said this about the Tenaska Trailblazer Energy Center project: "We need more Tenaskas on the energy and environmental fronts – companies willing to stick out their necks and stretch their pocketbooks to give America not only more energy but cleaner energy."

"My Tenaska colleagues and I are in the Sweetwater area on a regular basis, working to make sure lines of communication are open and to answer questions about the Trailblazer project," said Helen Manroe, manager of business development for Tenaska.

The electric generating station will burn low-sulfur pulverized coal brought by rail

from the Powder River Basin. Emissions from the plant will be far below historic average amounts from coal-fueled plants.

"We will be using supercritical steam—steam pressurized at high temperatures—to increase the efficiency of the plant, and keep the emissions very low," said Greg Kunkel, Ph.D., vice president for environmental affairs for Tenaska.

Tenaska Trailblazer will be designed to capture 85 to 90 percent of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the plant, making the plant the first conventional coal plant anywhere to achieve carbon capture on a commercial scale.

The CO₂ will be delivered through a pressurized pipeline to one or more oil producers in the Permian Basin for enhanced oil recovery (EOR). EOR is regulated by the State of Texas and has been occurring in West Texas for more than 30 years.

The value of the oil extract-

ed by CO₂ captured at the Trailblazer Energy Center has been estimated at \$1 billion or more a year.

When it begins to operate in 2014, the plant will be a significant resource for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), which distributes electricity to about 85 percent of Texas. Base-load plants like the Trailblazer Energy Center deliver a consistent amount of power night and day through the year. The plant's power output will meet the needs of about 600,000 homes.

The Trailblazer Energy Center will occupy about 600 acres of a 1,919-acre site east of Sweetwater; the remaining acreage will help serve as a buffer. Construction will take about five years and cost more than \$2 billion; financing and other expenses will bring the total cost to \$3 billion—or more. During construction, currently slated to begin in late 2009, 1,500 to 2,000 workers will be hired for peak periods.

When in operation, the Trailblazer Energy Center will employ approximately 100 people in well-paying, permanent jobs.

The project is being developed by Tenaska, Inc., a company well known in Texas for its innovation, community commitments and dedication to seeing projects to completion. Tenaska is headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, and has a major regional office in the Dallas area. More information is available at www.tenaska.com.

To help answer questions about the Tenaska Trailblazer Energy Center, the company has established a Web site, www.tenaskatrailblazer.com, which is updated periodically. For more information about Tenaska, visit www.tenaska.com.

This article is part of a series of special reports from Tenaska to the Sweetwater Reporter, addressing specific topics related to the Tenaska Trailblazer Energy Center.