

\$3 Billion Tenaska Trailblazer Energy Center To Boost Economy, Create Jobs in West Texas

Sweetwater area residents are already seeing economic benefits as the development process for the Tenaska Trailblazer Energy Center moves forward. A number of consultants and engineers have visited the more than 1,900-acre site east of Sweetwater as Tenaska determines the viability of the environmentally innovative project.

"We are very excited about the potential opportunity that the Tenaska Trailblazer Energy Center would bring to Sweetwater and the region," Ken Becker, executive director of the Sweetwater Enterprise for Economic Development (SEED), said. "The project would add to our diversified economic base and would impact the region for years to come. We look forward to working with representatives from Tenaska to make this opportunity a reality."

If built, the Trailblazer Energy Center would cost more than \$3 billion dollars. Tenaska would spend more than \$2 billion during construction, said Helen Manroe, Tenaska manager of project development.

Tenaska plans to make its decision on whether to proceed with the Trailblazer Energy Center in 2009. An important factor in Tenaska's decision is passage of federal climate change legislation that could provide benefits for projects that capture carbon dioxide (CO₂).

If Tenaska moves forward

Proposed Tenaska Trailblazer Timeline	
2008	Permit applications filed.
2009	Final decision to proceed. Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor retained. Financing completed. Awarding of construction contracts begins. EPC contractor begins hiring construction workers.
2011-2012	Peak construction anticipated.
2013	Hiring and employee training begins.
2014	Commercial operation.

with the project, construction is anticipated to begin in late 2009. Earlier that year, an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractor would be retained to conduct limited engineering and manage the construction process. Late in 2009, the EPC contractor would begin awarding construction materials and construction employment contracts. At peak construction, projected for 2011 and 2012, Nolan County residents could expect to gain 1,500 to 2,000 jobs.

Tenaska has developed 12 large power plants in the United States, and its construction contractors typically have made a concerted effort to hire employees from the local area.

"Besides bringing thousands of jobs to Nolan County during construction, the Trailblazer Energy Center will add 100 permanent, well-paying jobs to the area," Manroe said. "It's evident

that Nolan County residents look forward to the jobs the project will bring. Residents and former residents who would like to come home already have started contacting us about them."

It's too early in the development process to begin accepting applications for those positions, Manroe explained. The earliest applications could be accepted is late 2013 to allow time for training before projected commercial operation in 2014.

"As new industries and power generators are locating their projects in the area, the Sweetwater and Nolan County area is developing a very stable, diversified economy," Becker said. "We haven't seen this kind of growth since the oil boom."

Tenaska plants contribute several million dollars annually in salaries, materials and contracts in each community where they operate. In 2007, Tenaska Gateway Generat-

ing Station in Mt. Enterprise, Texas, spent over \$4.4 million locally.

The Trailblazer Energy Center would also bring a unique economic benefit to the region. The plant will be designed to capture 85 to 90 percent of the CO₂ it produces rather than release it into the atmosphere. The captured CO₂ will be compressed, dehydrated and delivered via pipeline to Permian Basin oil fields for use in enhanced oil recovery operations. The additional CO₂ is estimated to add more than \$1 billion of oil production annually and help reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

"Locating the Tenaska Trailblazer Energy Center in Nolan County would reinforce this area's reputation for innovative and environmentally responsible energy production and give West Texas an economic boost now and for many years to come," Becker said.

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