

FutureGen Project Timeline



February 2003: Bush Administration announces initiative to develop zero-emissions “clean coal” power plant. The plant would burn coal to produce hydrogen and electricity while capturing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions for storage underground.¹

- Estimated cost: \$1 billion

September 2005: The FutureGen Industrial Alliance, a coalition of power producers from around the world, is formed in support of the project.²

December 2005: The Department of Energy (DOE) and FutureGen Industrial Alliance sign agreement to develop plant.³

- Phase 1 Begins: Site selection, design activities, and environmental analyses for the large-scale clean coal power plant.

April 2006: Seven states compete for location of FutureGen power plant and sequestration site.⁴

July 2007: Illinois State Legislature approve \$80 million tax incentive package to lure FutureGen to Illinois.^{5,6}

December 2007: Mattoon, Illinois chosen as FutureGen power plant and sequestration site.⁷

- Estimated cost: \$1.3 Billion

January 2008: DOE announces the cancellation of funds for FutureGen—effectively cancelling the FutureGen project.⁸

- Estimated Cost: \$1.8 Billion¹

March 11th 2009: Government Accountability Office warns against rising costs and overall cost-effectiveness of the project.⁹

June 2009: Obama administration revives FutureGen with \$1 billion from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

- Estimated Cost: \$2.4 Billion¹⁰

June 25th 2009: American Electric Power Company and Southern Company withdraw from the FutureGen Industrial Alliance.¹¹

¹ DOE Inflated costs through 2017 – Government Accountability Office, “DOE decision to restructure FutureGen should be based on comprehensive analysis of costs, benefits, and risks,” February 2009. <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d09248high.pdf>

August 2010: The DOE cancels support for construction of new plant in Mattoon, IL. Instead, it will award \$1 billion to retrofit a 64-year-old oil-burning power plant in Meredosia, IL. Plant will now use “oxy-combustion” technology instead of coal-to-gas technology.¹²

- FutureGen project renamed “FutureGen 2.0”
- Estimated cost: \$1.4 Billion

August 2010: Mattoon officials reject revised plan to pipe CO₂ from Meredosia plant to Mattoon for underground storage.¹³

- Neither power plant nor sequestration site will be located in Mattoon, IL.

February 23rd 2011: Morgan County, IL is selected to as new sequestration site to store CO₂ underground.¹⁴

August 23rd 2011: Illinois State Legislature approves “CO₂ Transportation and Sequestration Act” to allow pipeline construction and operation of CO₂ transportation in the state of Illinois.¹⁵

October 4th 2011: Ameren announces it will close down their Meredosia power plant and pull out of the FutureGen project.¹⁶

October 10th 2011: FutureGen Industrial Alliance CEO says the announcement that Ameren is pulling out of FutureGen will not affect the viability of the project; the retrofit of the oxy-combustion coal fueled power plant is on schedule and test drilling has commenced in Morgan County.¹⁷

November 28th 2011: Ameren and FutureGen Industrial Alliance are in talks to buy the Meredosia power plant and transfer stimulus funds awarded for the retrofit of the power plant.¹⁸

Estimated Cost: \$1.65 Billion

¹ U.S. Department of Energy, “Remarks by Spencer Abraham Secretary of Energy U.S. Department of Energy Announcing the *FutureGen* and Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum Initiatives in Washington, DC,” February 27, 2003.

http://www.fossil.energy.gov/news/speeches/2003/03_s1_futuregen_022703.html

² FutureGen Alliance, “FutureGen Industrial Alliance to Pioneer Development of First Near-Zero Emissions Electricity and Hydrogen Production Facility,” September 13, 2005. http://www.futuregenalliance.org/pdf/pr_9-13-05.pdf

³ U.S. Department of Energy-Fossil Fuel Techline, “FutureGen Project Launched,” December 5, 2005.

http://www.fossil.energy.gov/news/techlines/2005/tl_futuregen_signing.html

⁴ FutureGen Alliance, “Twelve sites in seven states to be considered for FutureGen,” May 9, 2006.

http://www.futuregenalliance.org/pdf/pr_05-09-06.pdf

⁵ Illinois General Assembly, “Full Text of SB1704,” July 2007.

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=&SessionId=51&GA=95&DocTypeId=SB&DocNum=1704&GAID=9&LegID=29844&Specs=&Session=>

⁶ *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, “FutureGen Timeline,” January 2010. http://www.stltoday.com/business/futuregen-timeline/article_46d53baa-2a17-5c0b-9768-3cff20876ba0.html

⁷ FutureGen Alliance, “FutureGen Alliance Selects Mattoon, Illinois as the Final Site for the First-of-a-kind, Near-Zero Emissions Coal-fueled Power Plant,” December 18, 2007. http://www.futuregenalliance.org/pdf/pr_12-18-07.pdf

⁸ U.S. Department of Energy, “DOE Announces Restructured FutureGen Approach to Demonstrate Carbon Capture and Storage Technology at Multiple Clean Coal Plants,” January 30, 2008. http://www.fossil.energy.gov/news/techlines/2008/08003-DOE_Announces_Restructured_FutureG.html

⁹ Government Accountability Office, “DOE Should Prepare a Comprehensive Analysis of the Relative Costs, Benefits, and Risks of a Range of Options for FutureGen,” Testimony before the Subcommittee on Energy, Environment, Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives. March 11, 2009. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09465t.pdf>

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- ¹⁰ Kelsey Volkmann, "FutureGen move forward with Department of Energy support," *St. Louis Business Journal*, July 12, 2009. <http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/stories/2009/06/08/daily64.html>
- ¹¹ Bernie Woodall and Scott DiSavino, "UPDATE 2-AEP, Southern pull out of FutureGen project," June 25, 2009. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2009/06/25/utilities-futuregen-aep-idUSN2529464020090625>
- ¹² U.S. Department of Energy, "Secretary Chu announces FutureGen 2.0," August 5, 2010. http://www.fossil.energy.gov/news/techlines/2010/10033-Secretary_Chu_Announces_FutureGen_.html
- ¹³ Diana Barr, "ILL. Town Rejects Revised FutureGen Plan," *St. Louis Business Journal*, August 11, 2010. <http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/stories/2010/08/09/daily46.html?page=all>
- ¹⁴ FutureGen Alliance, "FutureGen Alliance selects Morgan County, Ill. as the site for the FutureGen 2.0 carbon storage facility," February 28, 2011. http://www.futuregenalliance.org/pdf/pr_02_28_11.pdf
- ¹⁵ Illinois General Assembly, "Bill Status of SB1821," August 23, 2011. <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocTypeID=SB&DocNum=1821&GAID=11&SessionID=84&LegID=57876>
- ¹⁶ Ameren Media Release, "Two Ameren Merchant Generating Company Energy Centers to Cease Operations," October 4, 2011. <http://ameren.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=981>
- ¹⁷ Tim Landis, "Landowners worry as FutureGen test drillers underway," *State Journal Register*, October 14, 2011. <http://www.sj-r.com/top-stories/x940613273/Landowners-worried-as-FutureGen-test-drilling-under-way>
- ¹⁸ FutureGen Alliance, "FutureGen Alliance Negotiating Option to Purchase Part of Meredosia Energy Center for Advanced Coal Power Project," November 28, 2011. <http://www.futuregenalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/FG-option-to-purchase-part-of-Meredosia-plant-112811.pdf>