

Morgan County, Ill., chosen for carbon capture project

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By John Solomon – **Energy Guardian**The FutureGen carbon capture project on Monday chose an underground site in Morgan County, Illinois, to store carbon dioxide generated by a power plant to be retrofitted with experimental low-emissions coal technology.

The site in western Illinois is the closest of the four contenders to the Ameren Energy Resources power plant in Meredosia, which also is located in Morgan County.

The \$1.3 billion project, one of the first major “clean coal” experiments in the United States, is being supported by a \$1 billion in federal stimulus money from the Energy Department.

The sequestration site will create more than 1,000 short-term jobs and a few dozen permanent ones, according to Kenneth K. Humphreys, chief executive officer of the FutureGen Alliance.

“Along with the CO₂ storage site, a visitor center, and research and training facilities will be located in Morgan County. These facilities are critical to the project’s mission to advance clean coal technology in central Illinois and worldwide,” Humphreys said.

“This project will put Morgan County and Illinois on the global map as a center of clean energy technology,” he added.

The site was selected over other competitors in Christian, Douglas and Fayette counties, and was welcome news to hard-hit Morgan County, which has lost several major employers since 2004.