

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD

Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 5:30 P.M.

(Held in the Putnam County Court Room)

A Special Meeting of the Putnam County Board was called to order at 5:30 P.M. on May 27, 2024, by Putnam County Board Chairman Charlie Lenkaitis.

Roll call was taken by the Clerk of the County Board with Anthony Rue, Marlee Giacometti, Luke Holly, Floyd Holocker, and Charles Lenkaitis answering. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Lenkaitis welcomed everyone and presented the letter that was received from the Illinois EPA. The letter was titled “Notice of Comment Period Proposed Issuance of a Construction Permit/PSD Approval Marquis Carbon Capture LLC in Hennepin to the room. The letter stated Marquis has applied to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) for a construction permit/PSD approval to construct emission units and air pollution control equipment consisting of a carbon capture/sequestration plant (the “carbon capture plant”) to be located at 11953 Prairie Industrial Parkway in Hennepin. The carbon capture plant would be considered a single stationary source for purposes of air pollution control permitting. The carbon capture plant would generally consist of equipment used to capture, dehydrate, compress, and sequester carbon dioxide (CO₂, a greenhouse gas) generated by the ethanol complex. The carbon capture plant would also include three natural gas-fired boilers to generate steam used by the dehydration and compression equipment for the carbon capture plant, as well as the ethanol complex. As a result, two boilers at the ethanol complex would be shut down. The proposed carbon capture plant would be subject to the state rules for Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD), 35 IAC Part 204, for its emissions of particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and greenhouse gases (GHGs).

The letter continued to read.

Based on its review of MCC’s application, the Illinois EPA has made a preliminary determination that this project will comply with the applicable air pollution control regulations. The Illinois EPA has prepared a draft construction permit/PSD approval for public review and comment.

The Illinois EPA is accepting written public comments until 11:59 PM on June 5, 2025. If sufficient interest is expressed in this matter, a hearing or other informational meeting may be held.

Under the PSD rules, Best Available Control Technology (BACT) must be implemented for pollutants that are subject to PSD. The project is subject to BACT for PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, and GHGs for specific units. The Illinois EPA’s proposed BACT determination is in Attachment B of the Project Summary.

The air quality analyses for the carbon capture plant required by the PSD rules show that the carbon capture plant would not result in an exceedance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. Because the modeled maximum impacts for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} did not exceed the corresponding significant impact levels, the Illinois EPA determined that the proposed source would not cause or contribute to a violation the NAAQS or PSD increment for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}.

After reading the letter received from the Illinois EPA, Chairman Lenkaitis said the board was going to send a letter stating that they would like to require further information regarding the

various methods, efficacy, and long-term implications of carbon sequestration technologies to form a comprehensive understanding. Then, Chairman Lenkaitis asked if there were any public comments.

Sherry A. Miskowic stated she has done some research, and one of the things she found to be the most concerning is that this is the least regulated process the EPA deals with. Miskowic's two main concerns are the health of Putnam County and the possible seismic activity. Miskowic says the health in Putnam County, specifically in Hennepin, there have been 57 people that have been diagnosed with cancer, and 40 of those people are dead, with one of them being my husband. She continued saying her husband worked at the steel mill, which had a deep well injection, just like this one is portrayed as. Miskowic did say she did not know if it was the same, but she feels like a little bit of research with friends and family, and realizing 57 people in one town of 750 having cancer is concerning. Miskowic then mentioned the Seismic activity and noting we were not directly under a fault line. However, an article about CCS has said underground storage of CO₂ can potentially stimulate seismic activity, posing a risk for infrastructure and human health. While there is no major fault line directly under Putnam County, it's situated within the broader Wabash Valley seismic zone, which is known for increased earthquake activity, specifically a 3.6 magnitude earthquake occurred in Putnam County in Standard in November 2023. Those are my main concerns, I just want to make sure that we're not this small little county that rolls over and allows Marquis to do exactly what they want. Miskowic said, "I understand and why it is necessary, and the thought behind it is good. We all want cleaner air, but we just need to do it carefully. Thank you!"

Sally Young stated that the oversight of sequestration across the country, not just in Illinois, is minimal. There has already been an incident in Decatur, Illinois, where the cracks in the deep water led to an EPA shutdown. Young stated there are potential conflicts of interest, as some legislators involved in regulating wells are also financially invested in the industry. In LTV's case, we continued to let people dump chemicals into our water supplies for years before someone complained, then the EPA intervened. "I just don't want that to happen again. Thank you!"

Kathy Gensini stated she did not want to see other companies using the well to pipeline anything in from other areas. It was explained that this was regarding the emissions of the well only. However, board member Holly did respond, saying that he has asked that question and he has been told that currently it is used for only this purpose. She is concerned about property value in the area.

Angela Heckman explained that the property around the Depue site has an extremely low value, lower than any other property that sells in this area, and I do not want to see my property value lower if contamination does occur. Heckman stated, "I have been told that we sit on one of the larger aquifers, it's like an ocean under there. The contamination is very concerning to me! Thank you!"

Jim Burger explained that there are 3 wells that almost everyone knows about. One being the Injection well, the Monitor well, and the Test well that Marquis drilled when they were testing everything. However, there are also 2 other wells that have been capped and I don't know what they were for or why they are there. My question is, do they know about those wells and have

they looked into them? Burger stated, “Just because those wells are capped does not mean nothing can leak or come up the sides.”

Angela Heckman hypothetically asked, “If contamination did happen, who would be responsible for the continuation of testing my property to ensure my property and well are not contaminated?”

Chairman Lenkaitis responded, saying he did not feel comfortable answering that question. However, he asked Jason Marquis if he would be willing to answer.

Jason Marquis did respond, saying “I have a pretty good understanding of most of the technical elements. My background is in chemistry, not in geology, so I’m not going to be the expert on geology related items. However, I would like to note. One, the class six well process, there’s two things I want to say. One, with regards to this air permit, this permit has nothing to do with the actual sequestration process. This particular permit is about an air permit for boilers that would be used for compressing the CO₂, there is no outside CO₂ or new CO₂. This is CO₂ that is currently going out of the stacks today and over the past 17 years, since 2008. So, there are no new sources. In terms of cleaning up the air, you’ll be removing that greenhouse gas and that CO₂. In terms of local air quality, this is a tremendous project. This notice from the Illinois EPA is about an air permit, and not about any sequestration activity. One of the questions regarding monitoring wells, Marquis said they would monitor that, and then we also use third-party experts in the field, for things like water quality, which we have already started. Marquis continued to explain the rigorous process. We are a Class 6 because we’re contemplating or working for the permitting, injecting an inert gas, that’s CO₂. It’s 99.999% pure CO₂ today. That’s what’s going on with the stack. We have to test that 24/7 on a system called a Continuous Emissions Monitoring System, or SEMS. It’s not a new source. It’s not from outside. There are no pipelines associated with our project, so we’re not piping anything in new or anything like that. But the Class 6, we were on technical review for more than 3 years. If you compare that to a new application for injecting a hydrocarbon into the ground and waste, they’re required to get a response in 21 days. Our study looked at a 40-mile area. We checked every well in a 40-mile radius. It’s a 50-year post-life care. And again, anyone can stand up here and say anything; however, I am happy to provide any references to any EPA websites. I will stay and answer any questions that everyone has. Again, we are not running from anything; we are quiet about things that we do, and I can appreciate that can create skepticism, but I don’t want the lack of us publishing everything to try to promote ourselves or our stock price or other things that some other companies try to do. We are a private business, so we do keep things to ourselves, but, again, information is public; the draft permit for this particular permit is publicly available.

Board member Holocker said this is fairly new technology, there’s one active, there were 2 at one time, both in Decatur. The biggest concern is “We don’t know.” The last one that was in operation did leak, probably similar geology, similar cap rock, sandstone. The 50-year post is what you are saying, but realize, LTV first started injecting the deep water in about 1968. This is why people are concerned.

Marquis stated he wants to be cautious not to be callous in saying, we go through this crazy process, and to not validate the concerns, because we are all a product of our experiences, and I think we have had these experiences here and they can be worrisome. Which is why I wanted to

be here, because I think it is important for our community members to have the facts. If anyone has any questions, please call and ask. Thank you.

After hearing from the public, the board decided to respond to the EPA letter. Board member Holocker moved to send a letter to the EPA. Board member Rue seconded the motion, and the motion was carried on a board vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 absent.

At 6:17 P.M., board member Holly moved to adjourn the special meeting. Board member Holocker seconded the motion, and the motion was carried on a board vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 absent.

Respectfully submitted,

TINA DOLDER, Clerk of the Putnam County Board