



## Staten Island Advance

# 'CLEAN COAL' PLANT IN N.J. FUELS POLLS' IRE

**Federal stimulus \$\$ is being used to bankroll the \$5B Linden-based operation**

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By TOM WROBLESKI

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- New Jersey gets millions of dollars and jobs. Staten Island gets more air pollution within breathing distance of borough shores.

After receiving pledges of payments to city coffers and new jobs for workers, Linden lawmakers voted last week to allow a company to move forward with plans to build a controversial \$5 billion coal-fueled power plant on the banks of the Arthur Kill, just across the water from the Island.

The facility is generating heat from borough lawmakers already alarmed about air pollution that wafts over the Island from New Jersey's smokestack industries. "Of course it's a concern," said Borough President James P. Molinaro. "Most of our pollution comes from the petrochemical industry in New Jersey."

Rep. Michael McMahon COAL, PAGE A 8 (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn) said he is "unequivocal in my opposition" to the plant.

"Staten Island should no longer be the receptacle for everybody else's waste and pollution," he said. "I will do everything in my power to block it and to rally the troops against it."

Molinaro said that his office voiced objections to the project about six months ago, but was told by New Jersey environmental officials that the plant would have all the proper permits.

"We didn't have any jurisdiction over there," he said. "Look, it's still pollution, even if its

within the legal limits."

McMahon said he has been in contact with the federal Environmental Protection Agency and New Jersey environmental groups about the plant, which builders say will use clean-coal technology.

He pointed out that GOP New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie campaigned against the plant last year.

"A project like this takes us backward in the search for new energy sources," McMahon said. "Clean coal? What's next, dry rain?"

The vote by the Linden City Council on Tuesday gave a partnership called PurGen permission to pursue permits to build the 500-megawatt electrical plant.

Under the arrangement, Linden will receive structured payments totaling \$2.5 million over the next five years, according to The Star-Ledger.

PurGen said the project will bring 150 permanent jobs to the area, and Linden will also receive money to hire private consultants to monitor the project, the paper said.

PurGen calls its plant a "clean-energy" operation because the coal will be pressurized, rather than burned as in other power plants,. The company said the carbon-dioxide exhaust will be piped 100 miles for storage at a point 2,200 yards below the Atlantic Ocean.

McMahon said the pipeline plan is "fraught with danger, due to the possibility of pipeline leaks and so forth."

Tom Wroblewski is the Advance political editor. Read his polit.bureau blog at <http://blog.silive.com/politics>.

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