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BPU BOARD APPROVES CLEAN COAL PROJECT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Board of Public Utilities today took another a step forward in the permitting process for its proposed \$145,000,000 Clean Coal Circulating Fluidized Bed (CFB) Power Plant by approving the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project. "Clean Coal technology" describes a new generation of coal-fired power plants that significantly reduce air emissions.

The CFB Plant would reduce sulfur dioxide emissions per unit of energy produced by more than 94%, nitrogen oxide emissions by about 86%, and mercury emissions by about 95%. The new CFB Plant would also reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 20% on an energy output basis, as compared to our existing coal-fired plant. The BPU's carbon dioxide reduction (20%) on an energy output basis will significantly exceed the reduction targets set in both the Kyoto Protocol (7% by 2012) and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (10% by 2019).

The Draft EIS describes the environmental impacts of the proposed action and examines how significant adverse impacts can be avoided, minimized or mitigated.

The Board has determined the Draft EIS is complete and adequate for public review.

The BPU has been working toward the completion of this document since November 2004. During that time, the BPU has prepared three scoping documents regarding the Clean Coal Project identifying topics to be covered in the EIS and solicited public comment by conducting four public scoping meetings as well as 40 public informational meetings. Following SEQRA guidelines, the BPU has prepared and implemented an Environmental Justice Public Participation Plan regarding the project and reviewed and considered public comments in preparing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The utility will receive public comments until December 21, 2006 on the DEIS and BPU staff will set a date for a public hearing in the near future. Interested persons are invited to attend the hearing or they may file written comments instead. The document will be available for review at the James Prendergast Library, the City Clerk's Office and by contacting the BPU Communications Coordinator at 661-1666. All substantive comments become part of the official record and will be considered by the lead agency, the Board of Public Utilities, in developing the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

