

# JournalGazette

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## **FutureGen engineers to get lay of the land**

HERB MEEKER and KATE HENDERSON

FutureGen Alliance consulting engineers will be in Mattoon and Tuscola today and Friday for a business visit.

“The engineers coming here are experts on the siting of power plants. They will be looking at our infrastructure plans for a FutureGen plant and the lay of the land for our site,” said Mattoon Public Works Director Dave Wortman.

Mattoon and Tuscola are two of four finalist sites for the coal-fueled power plant designed to revolutionize the power industry by making coal an environmentally acceptable energy source. Clean-burning technology through coal gasification and underground sequestration of carbon dioxide emissions are two ways the prototype plant could tip the balance back to using coal for producing electricity in coming decades.

But FutureGen, a consortium of utilities and coal-related companies across the globe, must pick the best place for building the new power plant. The visits in Mattoon today and Tuscola on Friday are part of the selection process. Both towns have prospective sites located a short distance west of their city limits. The other FutureGen finalists are in Texas. The selection of the final site is expected in August.

“This meeting will help them determine costs and feasibility for building here,” said Wortman, who has spearheaded research and planning on much of Mattoon’s FutureGen efforts this year.

Brian Moody, executive director for Tuscola Economic Development, said Tuscola is ready for its visitors.

“We’re anxious to show them our site and continue to show different officials what we have to offer,” he said. “We have had a good working relationship with them since it got started and we’re happy to see some of the folks we’ve dealt with again.”

Moody said since this visit from Alliance members and engineering firms will be more site specific, Tuscola officials didn’t get local businesses as involved, but

they are looking forward to another opportunity to show why FutureGen should choose Tuscola.

“It’s another opportunity to present our case,” he said.

Contact Herb Meeker at [hmeeker@jg-tc.com](mailto:hmeeker@jg-tc.com) or 238-6869. Contact Kate Henderson at [khenderson@jg-tc.com](mailto:khenderson@jg-tc.com) or 238-6858