

NEWS RELEASE



Governor Bob Taft

GOVERNOR SIGNS FUTUREGEN LEGISLATION

COLUMBUS (April 4, 2006) – Governor Bob Taft today signed House Bill 440 giving Ohio a strategic advantage in attracting the \$1 billion FutureGen project, the world’s first coal-based power plant that would produce electricity and hydrogen with near-zero emissions.

“Ohio has the strategic location, the coal and the workforce to make FutureGen a success,” said Taft. “I commend the General Assembly for its support and quick action on this legislation. With these funds, we increase our competitive advantage and show that Ohio Means Business when it comes to clean energy.”

FutureGen, proposed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), will be the nation’s first near-zero-pollution power plant. Fueled by coal, the 275-megawatt plant will produce hydrogen for use as a clean fuel source and test the ability to store large amounts of carbon dioxide deep underground, rather than emitting it into the air.

H.B. 440 appropriates \$1 million in general revenue funds to support the drilling of a test well to provide important geological data. The bill also allows the OAQDA to accept resources from private sector partners.

The DOE has issued its request for proposal and more than 20 other states are expected to submit responses by the May 4, 2006 deadline. The FutureGen project is expected to create 100 full-time research and facility jobs, an additional 1,000 construction jobs and would increase research activities at Ohio universities.

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