

NEWS RELEASE



Governor Bob Taft

**TAFT PARTNERS WITH KENTUCKY, PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNORS
TO ATTRACT FUTUREGEN PROJECT TO THE REGION**

COLUMBUS (May 2, 2006) – Governor Bob Taft, Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher and Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell announced today that the three states have entered into a formal agreement to support the region’s efforts to secure the \$1 billion FutureGen power plant proposed by the FutureGen Industrial Alliance and the United States Department of Energy (DOE). FutureGen will be the world’s first coal-fueled, near-zero-emissions power plant. At least nine states have expressed interest in competing for FutureGen.

“FutureGen is a critical step toward energy independence for America,” Taft said. “While Ohio has the strategic location, the coal and the workforce to make FutureGen a success, we welcome the partnership established today with our neighboring states to promote the region as the best location for the project.”

All states competing for FutureGen must submit formal proposals to the FutureGen Industrial Alliance in Washington, D.C., by May 4, 2006. Ohio will submit separate proposals for sites in Meigs and Tuscarawas Counties. Kentucky will submit one site for consideration, and Pennsylvania is interested in serving as a research partner should a Kentucky or Ohio site be chosen to host FutureGen.

The three member states also have committed to creating the Ohio River Valley Coal Research Consortium, a collaboration among the states’ major universities and other research and technology development organizations. To date, the University of Dayton, The Ohio State University, Ohio University, University of Cincinnati, University of Akron and Case Western Reserve University in Ohio as well as Carnegie Mellon University, University of Kentucky, University of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania State University have agreed to offer and facilitate fundamental research support for FutureGen research activities.

The Consortium will help advance the research objectives of FutureGen, provide review mechanisms for spin-off research projects, help transfer technological developments to industry, and facilitate ongoing research collaborations. Taft noted that he anticipates an announcement identifying the organizations participating in the Consortium in the near future.

The 275-megawatt FutureGen plant is expected to create more than 100 full-time research and facility jobs, an additional 1,000 construction jobs and increased university research activities.

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The Governors’ Memorandum of Understanding is attached.

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