



Aquila

News Release

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**AQUILA CONSIDERS SITE IN PECULIAR
FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**
Informational meeting set for October 11

KANSAS CITY, MO, Oct. 6, 2004 – Aquila, Inc. today said that it is investigating a joint economic development project with the City of Peculiar involving the construction of a new peaking power facility on a 74-acre site southwest of the city.

“Over the years this facility would bring millions of dollars to our community that would provide important funding for the development of our city, Cass County and the Raymore-Peculiar R-II School District,” said Peculiar Mayor George Lewis.

The company also announced that it will hold a public information meeting for those interested in learning about the proposed project on Monday, Oct. 11, at the Peculiar Lions Club Building, 500 Shug Ave., from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. In addition, the company will hold a tour and an informational meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 12, at Aquila’s Greenwood Energy Center from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The proposed facility in Peculiar also would bring new jobs to the community. More than 80 workers would be used in the construction phase, which could begin in mid-October and be completed by June 2005. As much as possible, Aquila would use area firms during the construction phase. While the facility would be highly automated, it may have up to nine full-time employees.

The facility would be a 315-megawatt natural gas-fired peaking facility. One megawatt of power is enough electricity to serve approximately 1,000 homes. It is called a peaking facility because it operates only about 30 percent of the year, usually in the summer when air conditioning needs dramatically increase the demand for electricity. Aquila will spend approximately \$140 million building the facility.

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“We are very pleased that the Peculiar community is interested in partnering with us on this proposed project,” said Glenn Keefe, vice president for Aquila’s Missouri operations. “It has been our privilege to provide electric service to Peculiar residents and businesses. Now we also have an opportunity to have a key facility in the community. It is our goal to be a valuable and active community citizen.”

Detailed information about the proposed peaking facility will be presented at the Oct. 11 public information meeting, as well as the Oct. 12 tour of the nearby Greenwood peaking power facility. The Greenwood facility is similar to the proposed new facility. Directions to the Greenwood facility will be available at the public information meeting, at Peculiar City Hall, or by phoning 816-737-7655.

The site for the proposed facility is near 243rd Street and South Harper Road. Three gas-fired turbines would be used to generate the electricity and the facility would include three 70-foot stacks. Plans call for the facility to be landscaped with rolling mounds of grass and trees so that it blends with the surrounding rural atmosphere.

The facility would meet or exceed all federal and state air emission regulations and the company would provide regular emission data to appropriate federal and state agencies. Similar facilities emit no more pollution than a diesel-powered pick-up truck traveling 35 to 50 miles per hour. Noise levels during operation will be minimal and meet all requirements.

Based in Kansas City, Mo., Aquila operates electricity and natural gas distribution utilities serving customers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska. The company also owns and operates power generation assets. More information is available at www.aquila.com.

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