

Illinois finalists ecstatic

Tuscola, Mattoon officials say cities would be good fit

By ANNE COOK

acook@news-gazette.com

TUSCOLA — Selection as one of four possible sites for a high-tech coal generation plant puts Tuscola on the world map, said Mayor Dan Kleiss.

Both Tuscola and Mattoon are on a short list of proposed sites for a \$1 billion not-for-profit FutureGen coal generation plant planned to serve as a demonstration site for clean technology.

"This would mean good paying jobs for the whole area," Kleiss said. He and other officials involved in the process of submitting a site proposal held a press conference at City Hall Tuesday afternoon to share

Tom Kacich

Columnist looks at political aspects of project, A-3.

their good news received earlier that day when the official announcement was made in Washington, D.C.

Brian Moody, head of the city's economic development office, said the potential purchasers have options on farmland west of Tuscola owned by Tunks and Pflum families near the Equistar and Cabot chemical production plants. The site is adjacent to U.S. 36 near the intersection of county roads 750 east and 1050 north.

Moody said natural gas

pipelines run near the site, there's plenty of water available from the Kaskaskia River and three rail lines are very close to bring in coal. He said the chemical companies in the area are looking for "synergistic" opportunities to share resources with the proposed plant.

A proposed ethanol plant would likely also be built in the same area, although no final announcement has been made about that project.

"Our geology's the same as Mattoon's geology," Moody said of one important consideration since plant planners intend to store unwanted by-products of

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Brian Moody, right, executive director of Tuscola Economic Development, listens as Tuscola Mayor Dan Kleiss talks Tuesday about their town's good fortune in being named a finalist for the FutureGen power plant.

