Healy Coal-to-Liquids (CTL)

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Last Modified: 16th August 2012

Energy frontier

The site of the proposed Emma Creek Power Energy Project and Healy CTL project.

In 2007 a **feasibility study** (3.6 Mb) was completed regarding a proposed 14,600 barrel (around 7300 tons of coal) per day **coal-to-liquids** (CTL) plant in Healy, near the **Usibelli coal mine** to supply liquid fuels to refineries within Alaska. Possible customers include the **Flint Hills** and **PetroStar refineries in North Pole** , the **PetroStar refinery in Valdez** , and the **Tesoro refinery in Nikiski** . This proposal grew directly out of the planned **Beluga CTL** project when it was found that the **subbituminous coal** found at Usibelli coal mine shared almost identical properties with the coal found at the proposed **Chuitna strip mine** near Beluga. Therefore this plant would use the same **integrated gasification combined-cycle (IGCC)** technology as proposed for the Beluga CTL project. However, since the coal would come from the existing Usibelli mine, this project is not dependent on the creation of a new mine at Chuitna. This plant was possibly to be sited adjacent to the **proposed Emma Creek Energy Project**.

This proposal investigated the possibility of **carbon capture and storage (CCS)** using nearby unmineable coal beds for CO^2 storage, but concluded that unless mandated by law CCS would not be economically feasible at the site. Therefore any fuel derived from a Healy CTL plant would have a much higher impact on global warming than conventional oil-based fuels.

Date Created: 19th April 2010

Coal Seam by Emma Creek

A fledgling Great Horned Owl poses on a coal seam by Emma Creek.

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