

# Campbell County chooses potential coal gasification site

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By The Associated Press

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GILLETTE -- Officials in Campbell County say they have selected a potential site for a coal gasification research facility.

The project is a joint venture between General Electric and the University of Wyoming, which are accepting site proposals from Wyoming communities through Monday. About a dozen communities around the state have expressed interest in landing the facility.

The Campbell County Economic Development Corp. said it is finalizing its proposal. The agency is not disclosing the location. However, the county's director of administrative services, Robert Palmer, said the site is "closer to Gillette than it is to Wright."

Gillette is in central Campbell County and Wright is in the southern part of the county.

The agency had only a month to write the proposal. Susan Jerke, the agency's interim director, said the deadline was tough but doable.

"We are definitely working days and nights trying to crank this thing out," said Brandi Beecher, the agency's project coordinator. "This has been a very, very rapid process."

The plant would cost up to \$100 million and would turn coal into a gas that can be burned with less pollution than burning coal.

The project was announced in February 2008. The plant would require about 35 acres and consume about 24 tons of coal a day. About 15 jobs would be created.

The project is expected to be completed in 2011.