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ENERGY



Darrol Vigil of Industrial Construction Managers Inc. in Pueblo swept an area of the Martin Drake Power Plant on Monday that will eventually become a solvent process system.

COAL-FIRED INGENUITY ON DISPLAY IN SPRINGS

Plant shows visiting senator innovative clean-coal technology

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In a city that gets 70 percent of its power from coal, any new laws regulating carbon emissions could have a drastic — and expensive — impact on wallets here, as much as \$15 a month for Colorado Springs Utilities ratepayers, Colorado Springs Mayor Lionel Rivera said Monday.

So Colorado Springs officials are putting great stock in a technique being tested at the Martin Drake Power Plant that shows promise for removing pol-

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Sen. Mark Udall visited the Martin Drake Power Plant on Monday to hear about a promising clean-coal technology being developed.

BRYAN OLLER,
THE GAZETTE

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COAL: Udall calls potential for technology 'very exciting'

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lutants from coal-burning emissions, at a fraction of the cost and size of other scrubbing techniques.

"We've gotten better performance out of this than what we predicted in advance," said physicist David Neumann, whose Purestream air purification device has successfully removed sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and particulate matter from the plant's exhaust.

On Monday, officials from the city and Utilities made their case to Sen. Mark Udall, a Colorado Democrat, to get \$135 million in federal stimulus money to help install Neumann's technique and device at Utilities' other coal plant, the Ray Nixon Power Plant. Udall visited the Drake plant to hear a presentation on the technology.

Utilities has invested \$10 million on Neumann's research so far, in a public-private partnership. His device has successfully removed the pollutants from 2 megawatts of production, and this year he plans to test it on 20 megawatts.

The equipment is one-tenth the size of the massive scrubbers currently used at power plants.

Officials touted the economic benefits of building a device here that could be sold all over the world.

"We think we can put our technology where our mouth is," Neumann said. "Coal appears to be in our future for a long time to come."

"This is very exciting," Udall said after the presentation. He pledged to work to forward the funding request.

"We can get this right, then get out of the way of the public sector," he said.