



A rendering of AES Somerset's proposed lake-unloading facility depicts a 3,200-foot-long pier, where ships would dock to unload materials such as coal and limestone.

## Coal company sets plans for \$25M lakeside facility

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AES Somerset unveiled plans Oct. 2 to build a \$25 million lake-unloading facility at its electric generating station on the shores of Lake Ontario.

The company estimates the project will create approximately 100 union construction jobs and help retain more than 150 management and union jobs at the 675-megawatt power plant.

The new unloading facility will include construction of a 3,000-foot-long pier, which will be designed to incorporate a conveyor system and hopper to unload the vessels.

The project is part of AES' effort to enhance operating efficiencies and provide a transportation alternative with an eye toward reducing the cost on shipments of coal, limestone and other materials that are delivered to the AES plant.

Each year, the company burns 200 million tons of coal and uses 200,000 tons of limestone for the plant's sulfur-removal process.

Company officials laid out a process

where bulk commodities are unloaded from ships onto the pier. Then, a 60-inch-wide conveyor will transport the materials directly in the plant's existing material-handling system.

Spokesman Jon Reimann said while rail cars had traditionally been used to transport such materials, the cost of operating the railroad, which stretches 16.9 miles across the 1,800 acre site, is increasing.

Rail cars still will be used to transport chemicals the company needs.

Reimann said after permitting and regulatory review processes, construction is expected to begin within 12 to 18 months. The project should take about two years to complete.

Reimann said the company will seek a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement to help pay for the project. Meetings will include AES Somerset, representatives from the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency and other local officials.

"We'll be looking to determine a fair and equitable PILOT," he said, "one that provides some type of fair commitment from us and the taxing jurisdictions, as well."