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Parkinson Not Pressuring For Permit

Gov. Mark Parkinson says he is not putting

pressure on anyone to approve a permit that would allow construction of a controversial coal-fired power plant in southwest Kansas.

Parkinson issued a statement Monday discussing a review of the air permit application from Sunflower Electric Power Corp. in Hays.

The outgoing governor says the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will review the permit application in a fair and independent manner and will not consider unfair input.

Environmental groups oppose the plant, contending it would add to air pollution.

Questions about the process have swirled since Rod Bremby, the secretary of the KDHE, resigned last Tuesday. Bremby had blocked a previous proposal for two plants, citing possible health concerns from greenhouse gas emissions.

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