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Bill Allowing Coal Plant Clears Legislature

A bill clearing the way for a new coal-fired power plant in Holcomb has won final legislative approval.

The House approved it Friday on a 103-18 vote, sending it to Gov. Mark Parkinson. The Senate had passed it on a 37-2 vote Thursday night.

The bill contains renewable energy proposals, and Parkinson made its passage a condition for allowing Sunflower Electric Power Corp. to build an 895-megawatt power plant near Holcomb in Finney County.

Parkinson brokered the deal to end the 19-month impasse over the state's refusal to issue an air-quality permit for Sunflower to build two plants.

It also ends the litigation by Sunflower, which maintained the state overstepped its authority in denying the permit in October 2007.

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