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Chicagoans want Fisk, Crawford power plants closed, poll says.

[Greg Hinz](#) October 18, 2011

Chicagoans favor closing the Southwest Side's Fisk and Crawford power plants, even if it means the loss of a couple of hundred jobs, according to a new poll commissioned by a coalition of neighborhood and environmental groups.

The survey found that 72% of Chicagoans surveyed would support the city enacting air pollution laws that are tougher than those imposed by the state and federal governments.

When told that such a step could result in the shutdown of the two coal-fired plants — but also told that the plant emissions may be a public-health danger — 64% said they still support stronger laws, with 27% against and 10% undecided.

The survey by Fako & Associates Inc. of 600 registered Chicago voters was conducted between Oct. 3 and 5 for the Chicago Clean Power Coalition, which describes itself as a pro-environment grass-roots group. Results are said to be accurate within a four-percentage point margin of error.

The survey results come as the political pressure is growing on Midwest Generation LLC, owner of the two plants, to shut them down.

My colleague [Steve Daniels](#) recently reported that Mayor Rahm Emanuel is trying to broker a deal in which Midwest Generation would close the plants in return for the state's agreement to purchase power at above-market rates from the company's struggling wind-power complex in northwestern Illinois.
