GEOS24705 Field trip recommendations

If you are...
you should go on...

... getting a job at an electric utility (an electricity provider)
- Crawford coal
- Dresden nuclear
- Grand Ridge wind (and ask questions about grid integration)
  .. and if you have extra time, hit the MOSI for cogeneration

... interested in the economics of energy in general
- Crawford coal (everyone should see a coal plant)
- BP Whiting oil refinery
- Gas Technology Institute for coal-to-gas, which could be an economic game-changer

... getting a job at a major electricity generator (not same as a utility)
- Crawford coal (definitely you should see a coal plant)
- Grand Ridge wind (in case wind is in the investment portfolio)
- Gas Technology Institute (because that may change the economics of natural gas)
  .. and if you have time, BP Whiting as useful general knowledge, and because it may be rare to get access like we will have. Dresden less important because there won’t be many nuclear new builds. MOSI would let you look at a gas turbine, even if you won’t be doing cogen.

... interested in transportation
- BP Whiting oil refinery
- Argonne auto lab
- Gas Technology Institute (because coal-to-gas is the first step in coal-to-liquid)
  .. and if you have extra time, Crawford; everyone should see it

... interested in buildings
- Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) for cogen
- Crawford (just because everyone should see coal)
- Building trip from Skidmore Owings Merrill if we can pull it off, otherwise your backup option is to go to wind during reading week
  .. also go see the U. Chicago steam plant; it’s close and will be fast

... interested in the hardest / most obscure sites to get access to (because you’ll do the rest later yourself)
- BP Whiting oil refinery (almost didn’t happen this year!)
- Dresden Nuclear (still waiting confirmation even)
- Argonne auto laboratory (we pulled our local strings to get this)
... interested in alternative / “green” technologies (but no nukes!)
• Crawford (because you need to see the enemy)
• Grand Ridge wind
• BP Whiting oil refinery (again on principle of know what needs to be replaced .. and it is not small)
  ... and if you have time, Gas Technology Institute, because coal–to–gas is the same process as biofuel–to–gas. Also MOSI for cogen, or possibly Argonne auto lab for hybrid vehicles

... really enthusiastic about the trips but overbooked during the quarter with classes
• Crawford coal (worth skipping class for)
  ... then wait til reading week and do your last 2 trips then:
  • Grand Ridge wind
  • Gas Technology Institute

... wishing you hadn't signed up for this class and looking for the minimum time commitment
• U. Chicago steam plant
• Argonne auto laboratory
  ...then if you’re a gambler...
• Skidmore Owings Merrill buildings (likely downtown, but if it didn’t happen you’d be stuck going 1.5 hours away to Grand Ridge)
  ... or if you want a safe bet that doesn’t have risk..
• Crawford coal plant

Note that there are several unknowns, i.e. new trips we haven’t been on yet. The others we know are good

New trips are
• U. Chicago steam
• Grand Ridge wind
• Gas Technology Institute
• Skidmore Owings Merrill buildings (may or may not happen even)