

## CITY OF NEWTON



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Incorporated City 1887

July 28, 2020

Ms. Barbara Flynn Currie, Chairman  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
1021 N. Grand Avenue East  
PO Box 19274  
Springfield IL 62994

Dear Chairman Currie:

As the Mayor of Newton, that's just miles from the Newton Power Plant in Jasper County, I want to thank the board for considering some of the factors surrounding how this proposed rule would impact my community.

I understand the ash, a byproduct of burning coal to generate electricity since the plant opened in the late 1970's, has been stored at the site in various impoundments. In forming the state rule to close out the impoundments in the future, I urge the board to give the IEPA broad authority to evaluate many options on how best to permanently manage them.

A narrow mandate to close by removal wouldn't necessarily best serve my constituents. Hauling away hundreds of truckloads of ash for perhaps 10 years or more would mean more traffic, road wear and safety risks. I also believe it would hurt our air quality and cast a greater carbon footprint than other closure options that are equally or more effective with much less disruption to our community.

I appreciate your attention to forming a rule that doesn't arbitrarily prefer one closure method over another.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bolander'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mark Bolander  
Mayor of Newton