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May 23, 2022

Mr. Don Brown
Clerk, Illinois Pollution Control Board

To the Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

As Mayor of Waukegan, I represent over 89,000 people who rely on the resources of our community as part of their everyday lives. Groundwater pollution from coal ash storage at Midwest Generation's Waukegan plant continues to pose an urgent threat to these resources and the health of our residents. With the health of our community as my top priority, I urge you to quickly address this pollution by maintaining the current timeline for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("IEPA") to finalize its recommendation concerning Midwest Generation's petition to exempt the Waukegan plant's "Old Pond"/ "Grassy Field" from compliance with the new coal ash rules.

Midwest Generation petitioned this Board on May 11, 2021 for an "Adjusted Standard" to the new coal ash rules for its Waukegan plant. However, it has been over a year since the petition for an "Adjusted Standard" was initially filed and multiple extensions have already been issued. On May 18, 2022, IEPA requested an additional extension until August 1, 2022 to respond to Midwest Generation's petition. Continued delays of this important decision will impact the health and standard of living for residents across Waukegan, who have been suffering for decades as an environmental justice community.

Each day that passes without a decision, pollution continues to compound in a community that already bears the environmental burdens of irresponsible companies. In a ruling from the Board on June 20, 2019, the Board found that Midwest Generation caused groundwater contamination at the Waukegan plant, resulting in water pollution. It also found that Midwest Generation did not take action to prevent contamination, but rather chose to continue operations despite being aware of the damage it was causing and has continued to cause. This negligence and complete disregard for the community cannot continue to proceed unchecked by IEPA and the IPCB.

On behalf of the families across Waukegan, I urge the Board to hold IEPA to its current timeline concerning its decision regarding the Waukegan plant's "Old Pond"/ "Grassy Field,". Making a final decision to hold Midwest Generation accountable to the new coal ash rules would ultimately protect the health and well-being of Illinois residents for years to come. In alignment with your duty to implement environmental control standards for the state, I urge your consideration of maintaining this timeline to serve in the best interest of the residents of Waukegan impacted by this decision.

Thank you,

Mayor Ann B. Taylor, City of Waukegan

From: [Lauren Schreck](#)
To: [Brown, Don](#)
Cc: [Julia Larkin](#)
Subject: [External] City of Waukegan - Letter of Concern
Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 10:29:18 AM
Attachments: [2022.05.23 Illinois Pollution Control Board Letter Signed.pdf](#)

Good morning Mr. Brown,

I am reaching out on behalf of our client, the City of Waukegan. Although a decision has already been made regarding the extension of the timeline for IEPA to come to a decision on Midwest Generation's petition for an Adjusted Standard at the Waukegan plant, we wanted to share the attached letter with you regarding the city's concerns with the historic coal ash at the site and how this decision would continue to impact the residents of the city. Please let us know if you have any questions. Have a great rest of the week!

Thank you,

Lauren Schreck
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