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**To:** [PCB.Clerks](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Public comment on Case # AS 2021-006  
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Dear Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

On behalf of Tri-County Electric Cooperative and the member/owners we serve, I respectfully urge the Board to consider excluding ponds containing de minimis amounts of coal combustion residuals (CCR) located at Southern Illinois Power Cooperative's (SIPC) facility from the ongoing environmental attacks addressing CCR management across the state. There may be bad actors in the pollution arena, but SIPC works diligently to stay compliant with all regulations.

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative plays a vital role in meeting the energy needs of some of the most economically challenged counties in Illinois. Their facility remains one of the few remaining environmentally compliant coal-based power generators, providing essential, reliable, and affordable power to thousands of homes, schools, and businesses throughout the region.

Beyond its power generation mission, SIPC delivers immense economic value to southern Illinois:

- It sustains hundreds of high-paying, skilled jobs in an area with limited employment opportunities.
- It contributes significant local tax revenue that supports schools, infrastructure, and public services.
- It maintains a large, scenic recreational lake that is open to the public and supports tourism, fishing, and outdoor recreation.

The ponds in question contain only trace, non-impactful levels of CCR and pose no demonstrable threat to the environment or public health. Including them in broad legal action would impose disproportionate compliance burdens, threatening not only the facility's continued operations but the economic

stability of an entire region. SIPC serves 80-90 thousand residences and business in Southern Illinois and the additional costs to the Cooperatives in a time where rates are going through the roof would be very damaging to the local economies that are already struggling. SIPC has been transparent and compliant with the Illinois EPA on all levels and will continue to do so.

We ask that you weigh these factors carefully and support a science-based, reasonable approach by excluding these no-risk ponds from further litigation. Doing so would affirm the Board's commitment to both environmental stewardship and equitable treatment of rural communities that depend on sustainable and compliant power infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration and continued service to the people of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Luke Johnson

General Manager

Tri-County Electric Cooperative

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