



Office of the Mayor

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November 14, 2022

Mr. Don Brown
Clerk, Illinois Pollution Control Board

To the Members of the Illinois Pollution Control Board:

As elected officials and community leaders of the City of Waukegan, we represent nearly 90,000 people who rely on the resources of our community as part of their everyday lives. We are deeply concerned about the health of both our people and our environment and continue to strongly object to any motion for an extension of time on docket AS 2021-003, including the extension motion filed by Midwest Generation, LLC on November 9, 2022.

Groundwater pollution from coal ash storage at Midwest Generation's Waukegan plant continues to threaten our community's natural resources and our residents' health. With the health of our community as our top priority, we urge you to quickly address this pollution by maintaining the current timeline for Midwest Generation to file its response to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's recommendation to deny 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. There have been multiple extensions granted, totaling more than 17 months. Granting yet another extension of more than five months would be a disservice to the people of Waukegan. Waukegan residents deserve a timely decision on this critical issue that will impact their health and standard of living.

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 is an injustice against all Waukeganites that cannot continue to proceed unchecked.

Again, we are urging the Board not to grant any additional motions for an extension for this case. 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



Ann B. Taylor, Mayor
Janet E. Kilkelly, City Clerk
Dr. John R. Schwab, Treasurer

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with your duty to implement state environmental control standards, we urge you to consider maintaining this timeline to serve the best interest of the residents of Waukegan.

Thank you,

Mayor Ann B. Taylor

City of Waukegan

State Representative Rita Mayfield

61st District

State Senator Adriane Johnson

30th District