

BEFORE THE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

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OCT 10 2000

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

IN THE MATTER OF:)

NATURAL GAS-FIRED, PEAK-LOAD)
ELECTRICAL POWER GENERATING)
FACILITIES (PEAKER PLANTS))

R01-10

P.C.#10

TESTIMONY OF JOHN A. SMITH

My name is John A. Smith and I represent the Illinois Section - American Water Works Association. ISAWWA is a state section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Membership includes water utilities, operators and professionals throughout the state. I appreciate the opportunity to speak before the Board on the issue of peaker plants and on the use of water resources.

1. Do peaker plants need to be regulated more strictly than Illinois' current air quality statutes and regulations provide?

ISAWWA does not feel that peaker plants should be singled out and regulated more strictly than other power plant types in Illinois with regard to air quality statutes. Adequate generation of electric power is important to the future economic growth of Illinois.

2. Do peaker plants pose a unique threat, or a greater threat than other types of State-regulated facilities, with respect to air pollution, noise pollution, or groundwater or surface water pollution?

ISAWWA believes that peaker plants pose no greater pollution threat than any other type of industry and that existing regulations are adequate for protection.

3. Should new or expanding peaker plants be subject to siting requirements beyond applicable local zoning requirements?

ISAWWA believes that peaker plant siting requirements should encourage the siting of these plants near a sanitary water treatment plant if practical so as to utilize the discharge from the sanitary water treatment plant for cooling water.

4. If the Board determines that peaker plants should be more strictly regulated or restricted, should additional regulations or restrictions apply to currently permitted facilities or only to new facilities and expansions?

We only wish to comment on the use of water resources by these facilities:

1. the State of Illinois must manage, protect and enhance the development of the water resources of the State, as a natural and public resource;
2. water resources have an essential and pervasive role in the social and economic well-being of the people of Illinois and is of vital importance to the general health, safety, and economic welfare;
3. water resources of the State must be used for beneficial and legitimate purposes; and
4. waste and degradation of water resources must be prevented.

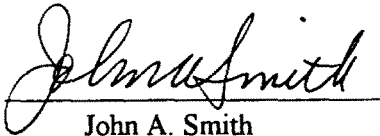
ISAWWA is not opposed to the use of water resources by peaker plants; we are only asking for the responsible use of water resources by these facilities, and all major new water-consumers. We believe that regulation or permitting of large water resource withdrawals should be the responsibility of regional agencies, such as municipalities, counties, or water boards, and that a State agency should have oversight of the regional agencies.

We believe that the basis for the decision on how much water that can be safely used from a designated water resource be based on the existing knowledge and scientific studies of that resource and if knowledge of the resource is lacking, then additional research into the adequacy of the source be done before allowing major withdrawals. The decision to allow the development of existing or new water resources must be based on sound science, not politics. We believe that funding must be adequate for the State agency to perform these studies.

In conclusion, Illinois Section AWWA is not opposed to peaker facilities. We are calling for the rules and regulation of water resources be based on scientific studies of our valuable water resources, and that an unbiased State agency be charged with oversight of regional water usage. Adequate funding of this State agency to allow for scientific study of our State water resources must be provided, and the State must have a plan for the efficient management of water resources.

Thank you.

Illinois State Water Survey

By: 
John A. Smith

DATED: October 5, 2000
#1 Gary K. Anderson Plaza
Decatur, IL 62523-1196
217/424-2834