



Ersel C. Schuster, Member

McHenry County Board

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DATE: November 6, 2000

TO: Illinois Pollution Control
State of Illinois

FROM: Ersel C. Schuster
Supervisor, Seneca Township, McHenry County Illinois, and
Member, McHenry County Board, McHenry County Illinois

Re: IN THE MATTER OF:

Natural gas-fired, peak-load)
electrical power generating)
facilities (peaker plants))

ROI-10
D. C. #186

Thank you for the opportunity to address your board on this important issue.

As an elected official with responsibilities to those residents most closely affected by the siting of "private peaker power" plants, I wish to make the following comments:

Having reviewed numerous professional opinions presented throughout your hearing process on electrical generating facilities, several concerns come to mind. I will not however take your time by repeating the comments of those professionals and informed citizens such as Greg Zak, Brian Urbaszewski, Derek Winstanley, Dianne Turnbull, Christopher Romaine, Susan Zingle, Dr. Tom Overbye and others. I do support their concepts and suggestions.

The point I wish to make is that of "enforcement." The concern is for the enforcement of the standards and regulations issued by the IEPA / PCB for the private peaker power industry through the petition / licensing process.

Standards and regulations are only as good as the tools and means to enforce them. As local officials we are the "front line;" those expected to address concerns over the operation of such facilities. However, as is often the case, we neither have the authority, technical expertise, nor the financial ability to ensure that the operator is in compliance with the regulations. Noise, air pollution and all the other related issues surrounding these facilities need swift and immediate action. Experience suggests that enforcement is not swift or immediate, nor is it always effective.

Local officials must have a means of effective enforcement of such operations in order to protect and defend those residents who are affected by these private businesses. I would ask that this be an issue worthy of informed, in-depth, and local consideration.

Ersel C. Schuster